

## **SOMERSET STUDENTS OFFERED A HANDS ON TASTE OF TOMORROW'S CAREER**

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**Thousands of Somerset students are being offered a “hands-on taste of the workplace” in the county’s biggest skills exhibition.**

Skills Somerset, now in its fourth year, is moving to a new venue for 2009 – the new Junction 24 venue, the Regional Rural Business Centre at North Petherton.

The event will be held over two days, **Wednesday November 18 and Thursday November 19, from 10am to 3pm**, with an additional open evening for parents and families on the Wednesday evening, from 5pm to 7pm.

Skills Somerset is organised by Prospects and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Somerset Strategic Partnership, Somerset County Council and Connexions.

Already more than 2,500 students from across the county are booked in and the list of employers taking stands runs to more than 50.

Unlike many careers events, Skills Somerset actually offers students a chance to “try out their skills” as they consider their future learning plans and careers.

How about a wheel change challenge to see if you fancy a career in the motor industry?

If you think you might want to pursue a career in medicine, there will be opportunities for you to analyse X-rays or even help treat a mock casualty

The Hydrographic Office in Taunton will help you test your mapping skills and you can also test your skills at cookery to see if you have what it takes to stand the heat in a commercial kitchen.

Engineering companies, law firms, the police, the armed forces, care companies, colleges, and accountancy firms are also among the impressive list of employers signed up to the event

And schools and colleges from across Somerset have committed to send students.

Event organiser Nina Hurst-Jones said today: “This will be our biggest and most ambitious event to date. The interest this year – from young people and employers – has been phenomenal.”

Any schools or employers wanting to find out more about Skills Somerset should contact Nina Hurst-Jones on 01823 362800 or email [nina.hurst-jones@prospects.co.uk](mailto:nina.hurst-jones@prospects.co.uk).

**ENDS**

**Further information from: Sue Bradbury (LSC public relations) on 01872 863863.**

**NOTES TO EDITORS:** THE LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers. For more information visit: [www.lsc.gov.uk/southwest](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/southwest) .