

## CAFRE Students Packaging Success



Left to right: Maureen McLaughlin Operations Director Diamond Corrugated, Student Jonathan Gardiner, Will Calvin Designer Diamond Corrugated, Students Linda Elder and Bethany McCombe and Ronald Gardiner Packaging Technologist, CAFRE (Loughry Campus).

Congratulations to CAFRE (Loughry Campus) students Linda Elder, Bethany McCombe and Jonathan Gardiner on their recent packaging exam success. All attained Distinctions in the Level 5 Certificate in Packaging Materials (QCF) whilst on industrial placement.

Each of the three CAFRE (Loughry Campus) students spent over 48 weeks undertaking packaging technology roles during their paid placement as part of the BSC Degree in Food Technology at CAFRE (Loughry Campus). Linda was with Diamond Corrugated, Bethany with Tayto Group NI and Jonathan with Delta Packaging Belfast. The placement programme allows students to develop and apply skills whilst being mentored by a company. The commercial experience gained is an invaluable asset for future employment. These students were also supported by their placement companies to attend CAFRE (Loughry Campus) on a part time basis to complete their packaging studies.



The Level 5 Certificate in Packaging Materials (QCF) is an internationally recognised qualification validated by PIABC. Linda not only attained a Distinction, but was also the Winner of the “*Best Student Award 2014/15*”.

Maureen McLaughlin Operations Director at Diamond Corrugated commented that “it makes good sense for industry to support and nurture the talent and quality of local students like Linda, Bethany and Jonathon. Creating effective links with Loughry continues to be a benefit to our business today and undoubtedly will be in the future. Bringing Linda Elder to join our team for her placement year added value to our business. We benefitted greatly from her enthusiasm and her fresh yet practical approach to packaging design. Employing Linda for the year gave us the opportunity to devote time to projects which we previously did not have the resources to do. It also provided the opportunity for staff to gain experience in supervising and mentoring.

We are delighted, but not surprised, to hear of Linda’s outstanding results and the Best Student award. The Level 5 Diploma in Packaging (QCF) is recognised as the premier qualification in the packaging industry. It is good to know that the future of our industry is in safe hands if the talent of these students is anything to go by.”