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UA helps develop Scotland's rural leaders

United Auctions (UA) is playing its part in developing Scotland's rural leaders with the 'graduation' of three senior-level employees from the Rural Leadership Programme.

Sales Managers David Brown and John Roberts and Donald Young, regional managing director of the north of Scotland, took part in the six-month Leadership Programme, which aims to address the challenges of leadership in the Scottish rural economy.

Funded by Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the participants' companies, the Programme includes a range of workshops, seminars and one-to-one coaching. UA's rural leaders also met political leaders with two 'learning journey' visits to the Parliaments of Scotland, the UK and Europe.

Since January participants have been improving their communication and interpersonal skills with dedicated facilitators and a range of mentors. The Programme also provided an understanding of the role of key institutions in the rural economy, an awareness of the important economic and social issues and the ability to think globally and act locally.

For the final part, UA's rural leaders had the chance to put their networking skills into practice at a special conference and awards ceremony at the Dynamic Earth Conference Centre in Edinburgh on Tuesday 9 June, which was attended by keynote speaker Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, Jim Mather, MSP.

Speaking on behalf of the trio, Donald Young, Regional MD for the North of Scotland said: "The Programme has really enabled us to develop our leadership skills to the next level. We gained a real understanding of the political decision-making process with trips to Holyrood, Westminster and Brussels.

"And our first-hand insight on how best to open doors to engage with and influence politicians at all levels about the matters that affect our customers and our industry will be of benefit now and in the future."

David Leggat, Executive Chairman of United Auctions, added: "Now is the time to be preparing for the future and Programmes like this provide the tools, skills and connections to develop the rural leaders of tomorrow – not just for our business and our customers but also for Scottish agriculture as a whole."

Issued by JK Consultancy on behalf of United Auctions.

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