



#ETB DAY

2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2023



etbi

Education and Training
Boards Ireland
*Boird Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Éireann*



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INTRODUCTION

ETBI is delighted to share details of the shortlisted entries in the inaugural ETB Excellence Awards, which took place on #ETBDay Thursday 2nd of March 2023 in Croke Park. The 500+ entries we received tell the story of Education & Training Boards and the difference their schools, colleges, centres and services make to the lives of hundreds of thousands of learners, trainees and participants. Perhaps more importantly they tell the story of our people: the ETB learners and staff who continue to 'go above and beyond' to make others feel included, valued and supported in achieving excellence on their lifelong learning journey.

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#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Hero Award 2023



ETB HERO AWARD 2023

JOHN LAVIN

BALLINROBE YOUTHREACH
MAYO, SLIGO & LEITRIM ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

WINNER

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

John Lavin is an outstanding member of staff who we are so proud to have working with us, here at Youthreach Ballinrobe. John started working here in 2017 and since then has put no less than 100% into all that he does. He is a dedicated and trusted employee to have amongst our staff. John enriches students' lives everyday with his positive, can-do attitude. He has also the admiration of his peers with particular emphasis on the initiative he has shown on a number of projects in the Centre. These projects have touched the lives of students, staff and the community alike.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

John has been involved in a number of projects in the Centre.

Most notably, was the Ireland to Ukraine - Humanitarian Appeal. John came up with the idea to gather essential items for the Ukrainian people. He organised a 40 ft container truck to be filled with supplies. John advertised this on local radio, Facebook, Instagram, word of mouth and visited schools and GAA clubs spreading the word about the fundraiser. For weeks him and the students collected and sorted various items to be loaded onto the container. He then drove the truck across Europe and over the border and into Ukraine. While there, John ensured that the goods were delivered to the correct shelters. He showed extreme courage by putting himself at risk but his dedication and determination paid off and he distributed all the goods in a safe manner.

When John returned back to Ireland, he didn't want any praise or acknowledgements for his efforts.

Another project was a Tower of Hope he built, this was lit up with candles in the local community to represent victims of domestic abuse.

He also helped the people of Albania by organising a Shoe Box appeal.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

We feel John is a worthy candidate as he has shown huge initiative in extraordinary circumstances, who at all times remained modest about his efforts. We feel he deserves the recognition for all that he has contributed to our school and community. John's courage and determination has to be admired throughout this project. He gives 100% to everything he puts his mind to and nothing is impossible to him. To have such a successful trip to Ukraine with essentials from food to medical supplies and to ensure to get it to the right people by personally delivering it shows how caring and thoughtful he really is.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

John has made an enormous impact on the lives of those people he personally delivered the goods to in Ukraine in their time of need. John has highlighted the Ukrainian troubles in our centre and his empathy and support for the Ukrainian people has spread throughout our school and the wider community. By doing this project he has made the integration of the Ukrainian students easier in the centre and helped loads of people in need in the process.

John has a positive attitude at all times and this filters to both students and staff in our centre on a daily basis. He is an inspiring role model for both staff and students over the years it is not known the amount of lives he has impacted during his time in Youthreach and in the wider community.

ETB HERO AWARD 2023

OLGA WALSH

ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE
BALBRIGGAN AND SWORDS
DUBLIN & DÚN LAOGHAIRE ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

RUNNER UP

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Olga is a Grade 3 Clerical Officer in our service in Balbriggan. Last year, when war broke out in Olga's home country of Ukraine, it was a particularly challenging time for her with family and friends living there. When we were tasked as an organisation to support those arriving to Ireland, she was one of the first staff members to support this response and she was, and still is, central to that response. She carries out her duties with the utmost professionalism. She is organised, friendly, respectful and a very valued member of our team here. We were very lucky to have someone working with us that understood the language, could understand how they felt and what they were going through and Olga demonstrated compassion, empathy and respect at all times, like she does with all our staff and students..

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

When refugees started to arrive in Balbriggan, we had to act fast to play our part to offer support through English classes, information and advice. Despite her own distress, Olga, showed strength, courage and commitment to these people and supported us to support them. She translated, offered advice and directed them to services on a daily basis. She facilitated information sessions in our local library which allowed us to provide information and support in a very real way. She created forms, posters and information leaflets in Ukrainian so that our message was understood. These were used throughout DDLETB ensuring that we were supporting people all across the country in a consistent manner which helped other services trying to respond efficiently and effectively.

She worked after hours, she supported them on a personal level, visited hotels where they were staying, organised a fund raiser to send support back home. She also volunteered in the evening with the Red Cross and generally worked tirelessly to support her fellow country men, women and children. She did all this while also maintaining her daily administration role.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than Olga. Her own family and friends were hugely impacted by this war and this had an obvious personal impact on her and her family here. Despite this she went above and beyond to support us as an organisation to respond and support people arriving from Ukraine who were extremely traumatised at the time.

She demonstrated, and continues to demonstrate all the attributes you would expect from someone who is a genuine hero and who embodies our core values of excellence, care, respect, community and equality.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

As a service, we witnessed the genuine care, warmth and respect shown by Olga to the people of Ukraine. She always deals with each query and question with patience and understanding. We could communicate through her which meant we were making an impact quickly and supporting those who needed it to access English language courses, Guidance support, Citizens Advice and other services. As we were well prepared and had posters and forms designed in Ukrainian at a very early stage we were able to support other agencies in our area. Olgas connections and contacts meant that we had access to information quickly so could respond faster. Olga continues to support those from Ukraine when they come to our centres and she has supported our staff and teachers to support them too. She has made such a difference to our response and our ability to support these people. Language can be such a barrier and having Olga on our team broke down that barrier and allowed us to reach out and provide an effective and efficient service to those when they needed it most.

ETB HERO AWARD 2023

JOE DEERING

CLARA FURTHER EDUCATION AND
TRAINING CENTRE
LAOIS & OFFALY ETB

SHORTLISTED



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Joe has been a Youthreach tutor for 20 years and counting. In that time, he has taught and mentored hundreds of the most vulnerable children and young adults in our society in a gentle, holistic manner. As a horticulturist, Joe has adapted his subject knowledge and skill to engage students in meaningful work in tending gardens, growing plants and vegetables. In doing so, he fosters a calming, inclusive environment that is at once work and an escape for our students. This work extends far beyond the classroom; in Clara, everybody knows that the man to go to for anything environmental or horticultural is Joe. This is reflected in the superb relationships he has with the members of the wider community, the fondness with which his students, both past and present, have for him and the respect and friendship his colleagues treasure.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Joe works tirelessly to ensure the mental wellbeing of his students are just as well tended and care for as our natural surroundings. His gardening classes are havens for students, of all ages, seeking to unwind and de-stress while also engaging them in joyful work. Many students who have never grown anything before are marveled by their efforts and results under Joe's tutelage but the biggest difference is seen in the students who come from difficult backgrounds. These students, often written off as being difficult, are transformed when they are outside in the gardens. They are focused on one positive goal and for a time, their troubles are very far. This is the environment Joe fosters in our centre.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Joe is not simply a teacher; he is a mentor and a passionate man dedicated to his craft. He shares his knowledge of the natural world with students, parents, staff and friends. Always with a positive attitude, he is the first to get the centre going when it comes to projects or organising the students to get out into the fresh air. With near effortlessness, Joe gets to work and the students follow. Even the most reticent or reluctant learners come out of their shell and are not only willing but eager to follow Joe into the garden and work.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

For years, Joe has been a rock for students, colleagues and the community. The sensory garden is only the most recent example of the impact Joe is having.

On our Facebook page where we regularly highlight centre activities, the entire community praises Joe and his students for their work on the planters and garden beds around town. The sight of freshly sown flowers and their blooms a few weeks later is uplifting; it brightens the town and is a perfect metaphor for the subtle but powerful changes they can have on the people who live and work in Clara, and the man responsible is Joe.

His students and their many successes are too numerous to list adequately but no matter where they came from or where they went, every student has nothing but fond memories of Joe. He sees something in everybody and with a light touch, he brings it out and shows everybody that they can make a difference in the world.

ETB HERO AWARD 2023

SASCHA CUMISKEY

LARGY COLLEGE

CAVAN & MONAGHAN ETB




#ETB DAY
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SHORTLISTED**Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.**

Ms Cumiskey has worked for CMETB since 2000 and during her time with the organisation she has achieved national and international successes for our school and for our students. She is a key figure for the promotion of respect, human rights and justice for all in our school and also in the wider community, particularly through her work with Young Social Innovators teams as well as our Concern debating teams. Ms Cumiskey has been a key figure in growing a strong student voice in Largy College. Students have felt empowered to tackle controversial issues such as mental health, sexual health and racism. She has become adept at allowing students to flourish, ensuring that the talents of our students are accessed fully in order to produce extraordinary results.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Sascha Cumiskey has mentored Young Social Innovators' teams in Largy College for 10 years. The first issue this teacher tackled centred around HIV positive people and this team progressed to the national final. The following year, Ms Cumiskey's team received a national category award for a project that promoted peace/ North/South cross-border relationships. In 2014, another YSI team received our first gold award as the YSI team embraced a project promoting the rights of the LGBT community. The 2016/17 project worked tirelessly to stamp out stigma associated with mental ill-health and this group received our second national gold award. In 2018/19, Ms Cumiskey and another team of TY students responded to the needs of Syrian families by producing a children's book, board game and an app called 'Monaghan Welcomes You'. This project won a national silver award from YSI. Other projects Ms Cumiskey has undertaken include raising awareness about domestic violence, tackling period poverty, safer internet usage, racism and tackling violence in underage sport.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Under Sascha's tutelage, Largy College has gained national recognition as a centre that is deeply committed to social justice, fairness and inclusivity. Through her work with our YSI groups, our school has received two gold awards, one silver award and many category awards. For context, over 7,000 young people and hundreds of YSI projects are entered each year. She has enabled our students to compete, consistently, at the highest national and even international levels. Ms Cumiskey has also mentored debating teams since 2000. These teams compete in the Concern Schools' Debating Competition which involves exploring/ debating development education topics pertaining to human rights, justice and equality. Our school has reached the national quarter final stages of this competition on three occasions. In 2011 Largy College was national runner up and on two more occasions we took the national title. This success afforded our debating students opportunities to visit the EU Parliament in Brussels, Bangladesh and Sierra Leone. As we are a DEIS school, the positive impact of achieving at this level can never be quantified.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The work completed through YSI in particular has brought about a strong sense of student voice as well as growing the confidence of 'generations' of students over more than two decades. Students from our community are confident that they can compete with the best of talent our country has to offer. Work related to social justice has changed the minds and hearts of our school and wider community as evidenced through reflective writings students have produced in general classes. Ms Cumiskey has empowered our students to stand up for what is right and just. Her work engenders compassion and empathy in our school community and the promotion of human rights and human dignity has been central to all work undertaken with YSI groups. Many of our YSI and debating students have gone forward to practice law with a human rights' element. Others still have undertaken courses in journalism with a view to focusing on giving voice to the voiceless. Several students are now teachers who are YSI mentors in their own schools.

ETB HERO AWARD 2023

EVAN GORRELL

ERRIGAL COLLEGE
DONEGAL ETB

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Evan is a dedicated and driven young teacher who possesses a strong work ethic both inside and outside of school. Despite his busy schedule, he makes time to give back to his community through charitable work with Cycle Against Suicide and is a key figure in the planning, writing and roll out of their evidence based mental health programme which is in over 600 post primary schools across Ireland. Evan's compassion and generosity towards young people is truly inspiring. He spends countless hours volunteering and organising events to make a positive impact in the lives of thousands of students across the Isle of Ireland. His selfless attitude and passion for helping others make him a role model to many. Evan's hard work and dedication to improving the lives of others is truly commendable and deserving of recognition.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Evan is responsible for training hundreds of teachers and thousands of students on the evidence based programme via zoom this academic year

- He is an integral part of the National Schools Team, responsible for designing, writing and rolling out the program to schools across the country. They ensured that it was tailored to meet the unique needs of students and teachers

- Evan has been instrumental in organising Ireland's largest youth Wellbeing event whereby over 4,000 students from across Ireland attended. Evan's creative and innovative ideas have helped make this event, and similar events, a huge success and have had a lasting impact on the students who attended

- He also served as the social media coordinator for Cycle Against Suicide. He leverages his knowledge of social media to effectively communicate the organisation's mission and impact to a wider audience

- Evan works tirelessly to raise much needed funds for the charity and in particular to ensure the programme can remain free for every school in the country. He participates in regular fundraising activities. He once raised €17,000 through a one night event.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Evan is a true force of positive change. He has demonstrated his commitment to bettering the lives of our students through a variety of initiatives. His ability to craft compelling messages and organise meaningful and engaging events / campaigns has helped to raise awareness about the charity and its work. The impact of Evan's work is truly significant. He has reached thousands of students and teachers, and his efforts have helped to promote mental health education and wellbeing. Evan is always finding new and creative ways to raise critical funds to support the young people of our school, our community and our country. The work is driven by a genuine desire to help others, not by the recognition or rewards that come with it. He is selfless in his efforts and always puts the needs of others first. His diverse skillset, passion, and dedication make him an invaluable asset to Cycle Against Suicide, Errigal College, Donegal ETB and ETBI. He is a true leader and a role model for all of us, inspiring us to strive for a better world for our young people and future generations.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Evan's efforts have helped to improve the quality of education, specifically in the area of mental health, for students in Ireland and ensure that they have the skills and resources they need to support their own mental health, and the mental health of those around them.



ETB HERO AWARD 2023

SOPHIE NÍ RÍAIN

CTI CLONMEL, GAELCHOLÁISTE CHÉITINN
TIPPERARY ETB



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SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Sophie Ní Riain is an iarscoláire of Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn, CTI Clonmel. As a student, Sophie was an active part of the school community. A dedicated student who also made time for extra curricular activities playing Peil na mBan with the school's team. Having sparked her love for the Irish language in Gaelscoil Charraig na Siúire, Sophie came to our school in Clonmel, some 20 minutes away, where her love for the language developed and grew. She continued on to the University of Limerick where she not only obtained her degree in Irish and English but also her Masters in Irish from which she just graduated. Sophie was awarded a coveted Fullbright Scholarship this year which has seen her travel to America to share her love of the Irish language and culture there.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Sophie Ní Riain has always been a champion of the Irish language. While in school, she was an active Gaelgóir. She expanded her knowledge of the language when she went on to study Irish at 3rd level having completed a degree and Masters in Irish. During her years in college, Sophie taught Irish to adults in her former primary school and now she sees herself on a Fullbright scholarship in America sharing her passion for the Irish language with the Irish diaspora.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Promoting the Irish culture and language in America is an important and noble task, and there are many individuals who are deserving of recognition for their efforts in this area. Sophie is a true champion of the Irish culture, who has worked tirelessly to educate people about the rich history and traditions of Ireland. They have a passion for the language and are

dedicated to ensuring that it is passed down from generation to generation. Whether it's through teaching classes, organizing cultural events, or simply spreading awareness, this person is always working to promote the Irish language and culture in America. In recognition of their outstanding contributions, this person is deserving of an award for promoting the Irish language and culture in America. They have made a lasting impact and have left a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations to embrace and celebrate their heritage.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Sophie has made a significant positive impact by teaching the Irish language and culture in America on both individuals who participate and on the wider community.

Cultural Preservation: The Irish culture and language are rich and unique, and by teaching these elements in America, it helps to preserve and maintain them for future generations. This can help to keep the culture and heritage alive, even for those who are far from Ireland.

Boosts Pride and Identity: By learning about their heritage and the culture of their ancestors, Irish-Americans can feel a stronger connection to their roots and develop a greater sense of pride in their identity.

Brings People Together: By promoting the Irish language and culture, it creates a sense of community and a shared identity among Irish-Americans. This can help to bring people together and foster a sense of belonging.

Sophie's work is far-reaching, helping those far from home and family to lean in to their culture and keep, not only the Gaelige, but the cultúr, oidreacht and pride alive too.



photos to Marc O'Sullivan



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ETB Excellence Award for Community 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY 2023

URBAN FARM PROJECT ST. FINTAN'S COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE LAOIS & OFFALY ETB

WINNER



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The Urban Farm project is a Community Ed initiative in collaboration with Midlands Rehabilitation and Recovery Services, St. Fintan's campus Portlaoise. This project provides mental health service users a place to engage with nature for growth and recovery through farming and horticulture activities. Today it is an evolving farm for growing vegetables, herbs & plants. Initially this helped build service users' knowledge and competency in horticulture within an informal yet semi-structured learning environment. Following the success of the short course and an observed positive change in the learners' mental health, a more extensive course was developed for this very varied group which includes different ages, cultural and social backgrounds, literacy levels and scholastic capabilities on this journey of rehabilitation and recovery.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Opportunities for learning were bountiful, linking gardening with wellbeing. Learners were encouraged to ask questions, seek answers and share experiences in growing their gardening knowledge and skills. Some learners with literacy issues were helped by peers/support workers to understand and apply the information on seed packets for sowing vegetables. LO Rehabilitation and Recovery Services staff assisting the learners, regularly shared their observations that learners really enjoyed the socialisation aspect of the course (a critical wellbeing factor following COVID). A quote from a member of the group "it doesn't matter if you're the best gardener in the world or the worst one, coming to this class every week I know I get to talk to people who care about me and making friends is what I loved about it". Learners were facilitated in learning about the planting and care of plants. Socialisation and sharing of communal gardening activities (such as preparing raised beds) were appreciated by the learners. Inclusion and teamwork have been at the core of the success of this programme.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Winning an ETB award would mean so much to the learners and LOETB as it would recognise the huge journey the learners have been on personally and as a group both mentally and physically. It would particularly mean a lot to the Community Education Service, recognising the importance of Community Education and the impact we have on people's everyday life. However, we hope it can be both seen and recognised from the above description of the course, the impact it has had, and difference it has made for our learners, and equally the impact the learners have had on us. Providing these participants with a small project of a 6-week course initially we had 8 participants however when we returned to develop the project further, we had 17 participants, eager to start as they had heard such wonderful things from the initial group. The big take away here is when this group were engaged with other projects both the attendance rate was low and the initial uptake was low. Remarkably this project had almost 100% attendance and doubled the interest within the group.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

For those participating in this course, simply getting out of bed in the morning is a huge undertaking. Having this course to come to, provided purpose and a safe space to come where they felt valued and cared for. This course has enabled the learners to get more involved in the community by creating value in their own local surroundings, while also acting as a tool to educate them about sustainability while improving their mental health and well-being. The project brought vitality and life to a deserted vacant space and this is reflected in the experiential value of the project to the learners. Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (STH) is an emerging health and social care practice in Ireland and has proven benefits to an individual's physical and mental health as well as their communication and cognitive skills. The positive outcomes from STH have been reported to include stress and anxiety reduction, socialisation, improved self-care and improved quality of life. This Urban Farm Project demonstrates how these types of therapies can be applied and are a true representation of the ethos and scope of Community Education.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY 2023

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR LIAISON

COLÁISTE FIONNCHUA
CORK ETB



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

RUNNER UP

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

This voluntary group of teachers has undertaken the task of trying to ensure that all our students have a positive experience in their day-to-day school lives and develop a sense of our three communities: school, local and ETB. The sense of community is evident as the PBL report shows the amazing success of this group and the positive interventions this work has had on many of our students. Our work is aimed at fostering community leaders firstly within our school, this is done through the house system. We then encourage our students to become involved in local community initiatives as we believe we can help shape the future of our local community by developing the next generation of community leaders in all areas. Finally we look to embrace the ETB Ethos and Values and encourage our students to use these in their daily lives.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

The 'House System' rewards positive behaviour in the following areas 'Commitment' 'Academic, Progress' 'Citizenship' and 'Positive Behaviour'. **Random Act of Kindness Week:** A flavour of the events that take place during the week are: Wednesday Wishes, Kindness to Yourself workshop, Tackle Your Feelings workshop, Environmental Awareness in our Community, Friendship Team Building Event, Throw Kindness around Like Confetti. **Charitable Work:** During the year to date we have worked with: Mitchelstown Kindness Initiative, St Fanahans' Well Support Group, GOAL, Marymount and Corpus Cristi Nursing home. **Community Initiatives:** Our PBL team have liaised with the Mitchelstown Lions Club and the Mitchelstown Community Association, Tidy Towns and Mitchelstown Allotment group. The PBL team was also asked to help in the renovation of Kingston College to house refugees from the Ukraine. **CETB working groups:** We are very proud to be an ETB school. It was with great honour that we were chosen to be the pilot school for the ETBI Patrons' Framework on Ethos. We are delighted to share our work and resources with all CETB schools.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

I think this group should win this award as they fully embrace the concept of community and understand the value of a positive school community for all our stakeholders. Not only do they see the value of a positive school community, but they also see the importance of our wider community and encourage our students to be positive participants in their communities in whatever way they can. They also recognise the importance of the CETB community and are willing to engage with and share ideas with this community as they know the importance of this network working well and working well together. Furthermore, this group embodies the concept of community, they are all volunteers, they are happy and willing to give up their time for the benefit of others. They have never asked for any thanks or recognition. They are happy to see the positive influence their work has had across our three communities: school, local and CETB.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

In school they have provided a positive and caring environment for our students to develop both educationally and holistically. Our students are confident and comfortable in their surrounds. Our parents have trust in the pastoral system in place and this is all the result of years of work and innovation by the PBL team. Within our wider community the PBL team has been instrumental in mentoring future leaders. From becoming involved with various community groups throughout their time with us our students leave with a strong sense of the importance of community. It is with great pride that we see our current students support community initiatives and our past pupils continue to work with these groups after they have left our care. Our PBL team sees the wider opportunity of the CETB community and also our responsibility to this community. As a school we have benefited greatly from collaborating with our fellow CETB schools over the years and we were only too happy to assist CETB schools over the last two years on their own Ethos implementation.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY 2023

FELIX ROWLAND-EARLS

DAVITT COLLEGE, CASTLEBAR, CO. MAYO
MAYO, SLIGO & LEITRIM ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

We would like to introduce you to Felix Rowland-Earls. Felix is currently a 5th year student in Davitt College. He is a very affable young individual who gets on well with his teachers and peers. He is a very genuine person. His level of volunteerism and loyalty to his community is commendable at such a young age. His work has been highlighted in the local newspapers and he was awarded a Young People of the Year award in the Mayo People of the Year Awards in November 2022. This event is organised annually by Mayo Rehab, Mayo County Council and The Connaught Telegraph. At the gala ceremony on Friday the 11th of November 2022, Felix's outstanding level of volunteerism was praised.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Felix is a volunteer with Mayo Autism Group and every Saturday morning he is found on the astroturf in Castlebar Mitchells giving group members every opportunity to participate in the game that they love. His amiable personality and his unwavering respect for others is what allows him to do this in a very rewarding way for the youngsters. Their families are truly appreciative of this. In his interview with Midwest Radio on the night of the awards Felix said 'It gives children with autism a chance to express and enjoy themselves in a very controlled and safe environment'. He helps to enrich the lives of those involved.

Felix has also been involved with 'Love Castlebar', a local group of passionate volunteers who run projects to enhance the social, economic and cultural landscape of Castlebar. This unique initiative was set up to restore civic pride in Castlebar. Felix also volunteers with Castlebar Tidy Towns. He is also a member of Castlebar Scout Group. On his recent Young Person of the Year award they commented 'We are so proud of you Felix. You are truly an inspirational young man'

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Felix is a most affable student and we in Davitt College are very proud of his commendable work. Felix carries out all of his volunteerism in a very quiet manner and he never looks for or expects accolades. Felix takes time out of his busy school life and study to help others. We think that his work and volunteerism illustrate the ETBI ethos and exemplifies the core values of care, respect, equality and community. Felix gives unselfishly of his time to his community work. He has said that he finds it the most rewarding work. He has been awarded in his community. We now think that he is deserving of a ETBI award. This would highlight his work further and bring it to a wider audience. Felix is a wonderful example of a fantastic young person who does not look for praise and acknowledgement. We in Davitt College are extremely proud of him and acknowledge all of his efforts in helping others.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Felix is a terrific role model for young people. His work and commitment to the various voluntary organisations is helping him to develop into a fine young man and he acknowledges how rewarding it is for him personally. He has touched the lives of many. We in Davitt College are honoured to have such an outstanding young person in our school community.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY 2023

UKRAINIAN SUPPORT GROUP

ATHY COLLEGE
KILDARE & WICKLOW ETB

SHORTLISTED



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Anton Budnyev, Maya Kalenbet and Oliwier Merta, are students of Athy College. The students have contributed in both welcoming Ukrainian students to the community and also with assisting in the safe return of one of a classmate and members of his family who were unable to leave Ukraine when the war broke out. Anton, was visiting his Grandmother in Ukraine with his mother and was unable to make it out. Oliwier made contact with his family in Poland who found them at the border and transported them safely through Poland from there, they safely returned home to Ireland.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

These students have given their free time to engage in charity events to raise funds for Ukraine through soccer events and attending meetings with local politicians and community groups to assist with sourcing the required support needed for Ukrainian arrivals to Ireland. The students also gave up their free time during summer months to attend interviews with students who were enrolling in Athy College and acted as translators as well as giving tours of the school. Anton attended a language school in Athy College with Ukrainian students during the summer to help students with their English in advance of attending school in September.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

The students have acted as positive role models in the local community and their efforts have been commented on by many. Anton, Oliwier and Maya portray the qualities and characteristics of what is

needed in young people today; they are willing and want to help those around them. These students see what is happening in the world and they want to help in any way they can. For younger students they teach how every person can make a remarkable difference. As well as being kind, considerate, well mannered and funny students, they have made a difference in the lives of many in the last number of months and we are very proud of their efforts which have not gone unnoticed. helping others.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The students have made a difference in the local community by ensuring that families and students who arrive in our locality are welcomed and assisted in getting school placement. Within the school, the students have helped the new arrivals to select subjects and become familiar with the school surroundings. They have encouraged students to join extracurricular activities such as basketball teams which have made students feel more comfortable in the school environment. The students often act as translators when necessary and being acutely aware of the trauma that the new students have suffered enables them to show care and compassion towards all students within our school. In addition Maya joined a local support groups which has developed supports for all of the Ukrainians living locally.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY 2023

FOCUS IRELAND SLEEP OUT TEAM

CLONTURK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CITY OF DUBLIN ETB

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The Focus Ireland Sleepout Team is made up of Transition Year students and teachers who come together each year in Clonturk CC to help raise awareness and funds for Focus Ireland. Clonturk is a new school that opened its doors in 2016. The sleep out team was started by Frank Doyle with the school's first cohort of transition year students. It has been running in Clonturk for 4 years now, and so far they have raised over €26,000 for Focus Ireland.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Over the years, the team has held numerous fundraising events to raise money for this great cause, such as Bake Sales, Penalty Shoot-Outs, Movie Days and Jersey Days. The team also raise money through sponsorship cards and online donations. The money raised goes directly to Focus Ireland to help them support people suffering from homelessness in Ireland.

Of the €15,000 raised this year, the team agreed with the charity to keep €1,000 back to help our own pupils in Clonturk who may be experiencing homelessness or financial difficulties themselves. It is a great way for us to help our own pupils and make them feel safe and cared for in our school community.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Over the past 4 years, Clonturk CC have raised over €26,000 for Focus Ireland.

In October 2022 alone, TY students raised the substantial amount of €15,000. This total was the 2nd highest amount raised by a school in the entire country, and more than many large businesses and organisations. Even during school closures, the team

went ahead with the initiative and students slept out in their own back gardens, sharing photos and short video clips of their experiences.

The team works tirelessly throughout September and October, not only to raise funds, but also raise awareness and foster empathy and care within the school community.

The night of the sleep out is taken very seriously by all involved. It is very much a sleep out, not a sleep over. Students spend time outside with just a sleeping bag and some cardboard to shield them from the elements. Students are encouraged to remain silent and prompted to consider the real experience of those living without a home in Ireland and indeed abroad. It can be an emotional experience. Volunteer students and staff set up a soup kitchen in the school to provide hot soup and rolls.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

While raising a substantial amount of money for the Focus Ireland charity, this initiative has also had a wider-reaching impact in our school and local community.

The students involved in the first few years of this initiative, brought what they had learned with them into 5th and 6th Year, and held fundraising drives for many other charities including Childhood Cancer and the Laura Lynn foundation.

This experience fosters true empathy and care among our students who will continue to support those in need in their own professional careers later in life.

The €1,000 that was kept aside this year to help students in Clonturk was much needed put to great use. It provided school books, stationary and financial aid for educational trips as well as emergency lunch supplies. This initiative has created a real sense of safety, belonging and care in our school community.





#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Excellence Award for Equality 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EQUALITY 2023

CARRIE ARCHER

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT UNIT CITY OF DUBLIN ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

WINNER

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Carrie is passionate, committed and dedicated to ensuring that every learner in the City of Dublin ETB has access to a high quality educational experiences. As the Professional Learning and Development Co-ordination she has spearheaded a focus on inclusive educational practices including building UDL principals and practices into every aspect education and training. Carrie works tirelessly to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in City of Dublin ETB and beyond. This includes promoting and demonstrating the many small ways we can change our policies and practices to make our centres and wider society more inclusive. Carrie challenges us all to try a little harder and always strive to do better for every learner. She embodies transformative learning and is an inspiration to all who work with her.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Carrie is involved in or leading on many initiatives that make her worthy of this award. Some key ones include:-

Working in partnership with Trinity College Dublin (TCD) to design and deliver a post grad Cert and Diploma in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in FET. Over 80 City of Dublin ETB staff including the Director of FET are on, or have completed this level 9 award. Under her guidance this programme has a strong applied aspect to it with many of the assignments focused on applying UDL principals to an existing aspect of work. As a result of this approach the impact of this programme across the City of Dublin ETB is wide reaching with changes taking place at every level. Applying UDL principals and approaches to everyday practice is a theme of Carrie's wide ranging influence in City of Dublin ETB. She has established a very active UDL community of Practice(COP). Coordinates the UDL badge in City of Dublin ETB (110 doing the badge at the moment) and facilitates a Professional Learning Network (PLN) for support teachers. All of this is on top of her normal PLD coordinator role. No one deserves this more.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Carrie is the embodiment of excellence in equality, diversity and inclusion. Her work promotes a culture of inclusion, helping to demonstrate that inclusive colleges and centres are richer learning environments. Through her PLD role she has given voice to a number of seldom heard staff and learners, helping to promote a understanding and acceptance of diversity and difference. Carrie lives the value of equality and promotes it in every aspect of her work and her interactions with staff, management and most importantly learners. I could pick out any number of initiatives in City of Dublin ETB to put forward for the excellence in equality award but for most of them, Carrie Archer is lurking in the background, supporting them, leading them or promoting them. Carrie does this on a daily basis and works to remove the barriers that purposely and accidentally create in-equality in both FET and wider society. Recognising Carrie's contribution to equality in education and training, validates the work of all who have learned from her and strive to put what they have learned into practice.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Due to the cascade effect of Carrie work, her impact is immeasurable. But if we just take a few figures from the last few years and remember that each of the people listed here meet with ETB staff and learners on a daily basis and have to apply an UDL/ equality approach to their work as part of the initiatives, then her impact becomes transformative. 80+ FET staff on or completed a co-designed post grad certificate in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The post grad diploma will be offered in 2023/24 and the cert will be available nationally from 2024 Over 200 City of Dublin ETB staff (teachers, tutors, instructors, principals, FET directors, QA staff etc.) have completed or are undertaking the ahead UDL badge with 36 City of Dublin ETB UDL badge facilitators. These educators are supported by a COP to help apply the learning to practice. City of Dublin ETB policies and procedures, Pride events for staff and learners, awareness raising events for seldom heard groups, events in partnership with other ETBs (FET fest for example) her impact is positive, transformative and immeasurable.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EQUALITY 2023

RCC LGBTQI+ ALLIES

ROSCOMMON COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
GALWAY & ROSCOMMON ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

RUNNER UP

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The LGBTQI+ Allies Group in Roscommon Community College was set up in 2020 as part of the Safe and Supportive Schools pilot initiative. This group formed in the backdrop of the only county in Ireland to vote no to the Marriage Equality Referendum, 2015. The newly-appointed principal asked a representative of student council why there was no visibility of LGBTQI+ in the school. The answer was that LGBTQI+ issues were not discussed in school due to the no vote in the 2015 referendum. This brave group of students broke the mould. They were supported by their adult allies, a committee of teachers who led the SASS initiative. They continue to meet every Monday and influence change for LGBTQI+ students and their allies..

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Among the areas that the students wished to address were policy issues. The students recognised that the school uniform need to be changed to accommodate trousers for girls. This was brought to the BOM and they became part of a working group that successfully helped to introduce a more equal uniform. All students can wear either a skirt or trousers. Working with the principal, two bathrooms have been designated as gender neutral toilets. With their teachers, they worked to introduce a Pride Week, the first of which happened in 2020, continued through the COVID-19 pandemic and was celebrated again in 2023. The allies brought awareness to their teachers about the use of pronouns. The SASS initiative is on the minutes of each staff and BOM meeting. Students requested that their teachers would place the Rainbow on their door or in their classroom. Details of the Allies group meeting is at the front door of the school, and visitors have commented on this poster. The LGBTQI+ flag flies outside the school. Roscommon Co. Co. painted a rainbow pedestrian crossing and lit up Roscommon Castle in rainbow colours during pride week, 2023.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Before the Allies group began their initiatives, students had no safe space to be themselves or to express their gender or sexual identities. There was greater engagement with school, leading to increased attendance by students. Students placed hand-made flowers for stand up week, which illuminated the community spreading a message of acceptance and understanding within the local community. This transcended itself to where the allies group in RCC, in association with the local Foroige allies group, where a joint initiative was put in place to have the first pedestrian crossing at the local library painted in rainbow colours. This initiative was embraced by the people of Roscommon Town, received a lot of media coverage, thus opening the doors to a discussion amongst the community on such issues.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The students promoted equality in school and created a more inclusive community in line with their expectations as young people. This took great courage and self-belief as a community. Gender identities that would not previously have been recognised are now visible and normalised, with pride, around the school community. This stretched beyond the school walls to discussions around their dinner tables at home, raising awareness with families, and the unanimous vote by the county council to paint the rainbow on the pedestrian crossing and light up the castle with rainbow colours.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EQUALITY 2023

LOUISE WALLACE

EDENDERRY FET CENTRE
LAOIS & OFFALY ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Louise Wallace was appointed inclusion officer in Edenderry FET in September 2021, and what she has achieved in the centre since her appointment has been phenomenal. She has liaised with local migrant groups, womens shed, mother & toddler group and agencies working with individuals with additional needs. Louise had only recently moved to the area and joined LOETB.

She is very quiet and unassuming, but yet she is a real "people person." Louise has an innate kind and caring personality which endears her to everyone she meets, most particularly those who are marginalised. Louise has a unique ability to make each individual learner feel valued and cared for. Every FET Centre should have a Louise Wallace, she is learner-centred in her approach to teaching.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Louise made contact with the local mother & toddler group, some immigrants did not have childcare. In response to this lack of childcare, instead of providing ESOL classes in our centre, Louise taught in the community cabin in their housing estate. She brought her own grandchildrens toys and sourced others in local charity shops. The young children played quietly in one corner of the community cabin while Louise taught english to the mothers. Louise engaged with the local womens shed post-covid. The women then engaged in various community education classes in mindfulness, yoga, flower-arranging, art, sewing, cookery & basic IT. Having developed confidence, many learners then progressed from these "taster" courses, to QQI accredited courses in IT, cookery, office skills, customer service and communications. Through contacts with cycling clubs in both Edenderry & Daingean, Louise identified the need for a bicycle repair workshop, which is now running. Louise had ESOL learners who provided accomodation for Ukranian refugees & we set up classes in -centre for them.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Louise provides tuition for various learners with additional needs, she has taught a maths module to a non-verbal learner. Louise accomodates these learners along with their care assistant in her class. Various learners have started out undertaking a QQI level 1 module with her progressing to Level 2 and a few are even doing QQI level 3 catering at the moment. Considering Louise is only 16 months working in our centre, these achievements are a testimony to her learner-centred approach. I honestly cannot think of someone more deserving of this award Louise is so gentle and unassuming, she would be the very last person I know of to seek recognition or accolades. She is the epitome of a good educator, identifying the needs of each individual, and instilling the confidence in them to achieve their potential. Her various learners, their families and carers have expressed their gratitude to me for Louises help and assistance. I know of her own volition and in her spare time she is studying in NUI Maynooth, doing a post-grad in Special Educational Needs.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Youthreach Edenderry has existed since 1991, and was rebranded as Edenderry FET centre in 2015. Since then we have expanded our provision from the Youthreach programme, to also providing traineeships in barbering, office skills, healthcare and childcare. Louises work as Inclusion Officer incorporates Adult Literacy and Community Education. Her work in our centre has been invaluable. The number of learners availing of our literacy service and community ed courses has simply exploded, expanding at least 5 or 6 fold. This expansion has been down to Louise actively engaging with community groups, helping to organise open days and awards nights, doing promotional stands in the local shopping centre or library. I always know when Louise approaches me to tell me that she has an idea, it is not without foundation and it is going to be a runner. Her most recent idea just from chatting at the school gate, was a class to assist parents doing their childrens homework, especially maths and irish ! Quiet simply I think every FET centre should have a Louise Wallace !

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EQUALITY 2023

BRIGHT MIND

CASTLEISLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
KERRY ETB



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Shauna O Keefe and David Peskett created a mobile application aimed to solve classroom anxiety that arises from the fear of speaking in front of peers. As students, they observed their peers becoming nervous when asked to communicate with a teacher during a class. When asked if a student is confident and understands a topic before moving on, they found students often said yes to avoid drawing attention to themselves in front of their peers or out of fear of appearing unintelligent. They have incorporated emoji images to enable non-English speaking students to communicate with the teacher. The app is user friendly and incorporates a range of colours and fonts to allow a user with special educational needs to benefit in the classroom also. This app creates a voice for all students to engage in class.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Students and teachers will use with interactive buttons such as slow down, repeat, I understand, I do not understand, I need help, I am finished, and I do not want to read. The teacher will receive a notification on their device. They assessed their app in school with different year groups, completed surveys and focus groups. The results have shown 72% of students experience anxiety when asked a question in class. They interviewed teachers and SNAs and found one of their main concerns centred around students using other apps on their phones. They added a feature to the app that brings up a list of the students using the app on the teacher's device. The group created social media accounts to contact mental health professionals and people who experience mental health issues/disabilities for their feedback. A student who experiences anxiety and learning disabilities said the app would "truly be a life changer for so many students." They sought guidance from Jigsaw Kerry, they told them the app will be a "brilliant bridge to open a conversation with a student after class so the teacher can explore things a bit more with them."

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

This group has excelled throughout the application development process. As a teacher I have witnessed a progression in the groups own confidence and ability to speak publicly. The students are passionate about their product and have had great success to date entering their product into competitions. They have won a national award with Foroige NFTE and have been selected to represent Ireland in the Youth Entrepreneurship Awards in Tyrol in Austria, from 23 - 26 September 2023. They will complete with other European countries from the title of European champion. The group approached me a number of weeks ago to patent their product, since then they have made contact with their Local Enterprise Office to seek assistance and have organised a meeting with the Patents office. The group made contact with Microsoft DreamSpace for guidance on app development. This group has networked at every opportunity, the work has been completed during out of school hours and they have used their own initiative to make their wonderful product a success.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The application has created a voice for all students, students with anxiety, non-English speaking students and students with special educational needs. Feedback from interviews, surveys and focus groups has been very positive 76% of respondents said they might learn more in class if they did not have class anxiety. 86% liked the look of the app. They also found out most students ask an SNA question before the teacher as they feel embarrassed. The students liked the clear representative colours of what the buttons were. Teachers also wanted an app that was 'simple to use' as they feared they wouldn't have enough technology skills. This group, is committed to providing a teaching and learning environment that promotes inclusion and equality for teachers and students.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EQUALITY 2023

FET INTO SCHOOLS

CAVAN INSTITUTE
CAVAN & MONAGHAN ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The FET into Schools Programme was first introduced in Cavan Institute in September 2021. This programme has been developed by a team of specialist teachers to provide transition year students with a taster of Cavan Institute's course offering at level 5 of the national framework of qualifications. The programme aims to provide equality of opportunity for all transition year students to sample FET and to promote FET as an attractive and progressive option for school leavers who may wish to undertake a PLC programme, a traineeship or an apprenticeship after the completion of their leaving certificate, thus offering a potential pathway into higher education or the world of work for these students.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, 150 TY students completed the FET into Schools Programme. Enrolment in this programme has substantially grown with approximately 250 students currently enrolled during the academic year 2022-2023. In total, 4 schools are participating in the programme, three of which are ETB schools and one a voluntary secondary school. One day per week, students attend the programme in the Institute to study eight different taster modules, designed and taught by eight specialist teachers in specialist rooms, in the areas of Robotics, Art, Radio Production, Business, Drama, Professional Cookery, Science, Health Fitness and Well-Being. The Programme is delivered as part of the participating school's TY programme and students receive a Cavan Institute Certificate of Completion at the end of the year. Each year, the programme is reviewed in consultation with TY students and Coordinators to capture valuable feedback from students on their learning experience and to highlight any other potential FET course areas that are of interest to transition year students that could be potentially included in the programme.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Feedback from Principals and Transition Year Coordinators regarding the programme has been very positive. They have reported how transition year students have grown as more independent learners, while enjoying a taste of college life and the opportunity to sample vocational learning and alternative pathways in a Further Education and Training College. A Transition Year Coordinator in one of our participating schools stated that " The FET into Schools Programme has been a fantastic experience for our students as they have been given the opportunity to experience modules in a FET setting while still completing their second level education...The programme has opened many possibilities for them, and they can see first hand the range of potential courses available to them on completion of their second level education in their local FET college, Cavan Institute. The variation of modules Cavan Institute has to offer to Transition Year students ensures that there is a module for all student interests", thus ensure equality of opportunity and access for all transition year students.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The impact of this programme has enabled Transition Year students to make more informed subject choices at Senior Cycle leading to more informed career choice and direction. It has also enabled students to sample first hand the wide range of potential courses and alternative pathways in Further Education and Training available to them on completion of their Senior Cycle at Cavan Institute. The programme provides students with a broad knowledge and taste of Cavan Institute's course offering, promotes FET as an attractive and progressive option for school leavers and assists CMETB to meet their targets on wider participation in FET.



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Excellence Award for Respect 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESPECT 2023

BUILDING RESTORATIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

KCETB SCHOOLS
KILKENNY AND CARLOW ETB

WINNER



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB Schools Directorate is committed to Building Restorative School Communities. We support schools to deepen their understanding of restorative practices and to build positive relationships in the school community. KCETB is collaborating with SETU in delivering a level 8 Certificate in Restorative Practice. This certificate programme is in its third iteration with teachers and senior leaders upskilling in area of restorative practice. KCETB is committed to supporting the development of a critical mass of teachers skilled in the area. To date 72 teachers have been involved. We have also developed an RP Community of Practice where those trained engage in growing their skills and share best practice/ideas. We have trained over 50 SNAs who have engaged in a 20 hour programme with CDI (Childhood Development Ireland).

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Teachers engaged in the Certificate in Restorative Practices in their personal time over 13 evenings, which demonstrates huge commitment. All teachers completed a reflective journal and an action based school project in commitment of the academic accreditation. Our Community of Practice also runs outside of the school day which shows a generosity of time and spirit. More importantly RP is being implemented in our schools. RP practice has been promoted and embedded in schools through sharing practice with staff teams, training students to be RP ambassadors, using RP tools in managing conflict, upholding the dignity and respect of all and promoting a culture of respect and inclusion which is exemplified in relationships between all stakeholders, and decision-making that impacts positively on the rights, feelings, and aspirations of all those in the school community.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Our KCETB Restorative Practice Community are deserving of the ETB Excellence Award for Respect as this project is core to all that we do in our schools. It is who we are, and

what we are about: building positive relationships in the school community for positive student experiences and successful learner outcomes. Relationships matter in Kilkenny and Carlow ETB schools.

Strong teacher-student relationships lead to:

- Higher student academic engagement
- Improved attendance
- Higher grades
- Fewer disruptive behaviors
- Fewer suspensions
- Lower school dropout rates
- Decrease in teacher and student anxiety
- Increase in teacher and student wellbeing

This is why KCETB is committed to building restorative schools. KCETB is very proud of the commitment demonstrated by our school members - teachers, SNAs, senior leaders in embedding RP practices in their work. Modelling respect, teaching respect and upholding the respect for all, builds a community of connection. Respect is not just a core value, but is a lived experience in KCETB schools.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

This project is cascading across all our schools and is having a positive impact on student experiences in KCETB schools. There are a lot of fabulous examples of schools embracing restorative practices and promoting it in their engagement with students and staff. For example some of our schools have trained their students to be Restorative Practice Ambassadors, another school has just completed an RP Awareness week across the school community, while another ran a very successful Respect Week. Other schools are embracing the restorative circle and restorative conferences as tools to support the implementation of their codes of behaviour and in particular to respond to challenges of the code of behaviour. Other teachers use it in the classroom to promote student voice and to engage with curriculum discussion.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESPECT 2023

RESPECT WEEK

ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
KILKENNY & CARLOW ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

RUNNER UP

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Respect Week took place from Monday 9th to Friday 13th January. It was an opportunity for our whole school community to start off the New Year with a positive focus on respect, whereby all members recognised their own uniqueness and engaged in positive relationships with each other. Each day, events took place to promote self-respect and respect for others. These were whole-school events involving the whole student body. Each event was targeted to promote a different strand of respect. Planning for Respect Week began in September 2022. It very much was a team effort and an initiative that allowed students and staff to work alongside one another enhancing our positive school culture further.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Each event that took place is worthy of a stand-alone nomination for the ETB Excellence Award for Respect. The collaboration, time and effort of our staff and students to organise and facilitate these events is highly commendable but to host a full week of whole-school activities centred around respect was nothing short of remarkable. We are so proud of our school community.

Respect Week Events included:
 Respect Lesson and Motto Competition
 Respect Week Official Launch
 LGBT+ Talk
 Peer to Peer Chat and Connect
 Staff Chat and Connect
 Staff and Student Rock Band Performance
 International Day (see our TikTok page @abbeycc_wd)
 Staff Table Quiz
 Take5@12
 Self-Care Wall Creation
 Walk and Talk to Zambia
 Parents/guardians were informed daily of the events and encouraged to engage in conversations around these at home.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

We feel Respect Week is deserving of the ETB Excellence Award for Respect as our whole school community were united in the pursuit of promoting, educating and embedding respectful relationships. Respect Week, although a stand-alone event is part of a much larger movement within our school, one that has a far greater reach and impact than just the week itself. We have always promoted respect as part of our school's mission statement and collective vision. Our ethos is not just a printed statement on a wall, we aim to walk, talk and live our ethos in our daily actions and interactions. Winning this award would mean so much to our school community as it would recognise the respectful relationships that exist within our school and the work that is done on a daily basis to promote our positive school culture. However, regardless of the outcome of the competition, Respect Week itself was the real success story and it's impact on our school community is longstanding. This is not the end of our journey but only a milestone en route!

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The impact of Respect Week is powerful and far reaching. The collaboration involved to organise and host this event has brought our school community closer together. The week exemplified how connection and relationships based upon respect can impact positively on a whole school community. Focus groups took place with students, staff and parents after the event. Overwhelmingly, the responses were positive. Students enjoyed opportunities to connect with their peers. Some students felt a greater connection to other students and are making a conscious effort to make eye contact and say hello to more students in the corridors. Parents noted excitement and engagement from their children in their conversations at home about the many activities that took place during the week. Since Respect Week, there has been a noted increase in the amount of recorded positive behaviour incidents that have occurred inside and outside of the classroom. Reflecting on Respect Week, we are so very proud of our school community who continue to live and promote our school ethos with enthusiasm and commitment as we all work Together Towards Excellence.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESPECT 2023

THE FOOD FUND

TERENCE MACSWINEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CORK ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The Food Fund: Shane Dwyer, Corey McCarthy, Dylan Peelo, Shane O'Reilly and Kalvein Lowther. These five students set up a social enterprise to reduce food waste in local schools, redistribute food to local charity Penny Dinners and raise awareness of Food Poverty in their community. Their enterprise is supported by an App that will track donations which is currently in development. They are currently mentoring a new group of TY students to continue their work.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Starting in 2021 in TY, the group collected leftover meals from 3 local schools and has to date donated over 11,000 meals to Penny Dinners and developed a close working relationship with Penny Dinners.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

The group have shown initiative and commitment in addressing food poverty in the community and in their city. They have also addressed growing global concerns around sustainability by reducing landfill. In addition to demonstrating organisation skills and determination the group manifested great social awareness and empathy. They have shown that acting locally is thinking globally.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

This project has captured the imagination of several organisations including:

- National Silver Award Winner of the Young Social Innovators Award 2022.
- One of 9 Finalists of Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) with Foróige 2022.
- Four global sustainability awards with SAGE (Students for Advancing Global Entrepreneurship) 2022.
- Exceptional Endeavour Award 2022, Cork Learning City Award.

They have spoken on youth engagement as part of the OECD local development forum in Cork College of Commerce to delegates from around the world on their entrepreneurial journey.

They have also spoken at the launch of Cork Creative Youth in Crawford Art Gallery and have received funding from this organisation to fully develop their app so that this enterprise can be expanded to other school nationwide.

They have been featured on local and national print, radio & TV news for their innovative App and social enterprise.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESPECT 2023

MARTIAL ARTS FOR RESPECT

CLONTURK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CITY OF DUBLIN ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Martial Arts for Respect was a initiative set up in Clonturk Community College as a way to engage students who struggle to follow the school's code of positive behaviour. It promotes respectful behaviour and language through self discipline in a variety of martial arts. The school brought in Master Richie of White Dragon Progressive Martial Arts into the school to facilitate the martial arts club.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Martial Arts for respect provides an alternative perspective on the schools code of positive behaviour. Master Richie works with students to promote respect and equality among their peers. He speaks about celebrating and respecting difference. The initiative nurtures students' interest in a variety of self-defence forms while teaching them alternative ways to deal with frustration and conflict.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

The Martial Arts for Respect initiative has helped students make more appropriate and respectful choices in terms on their interactions with staff and students. Master Richie has helped guide these students towards self-discipline, self-respect and self-care. These are the stepping stones to caring for and respecting others. He empowers them to be more empathetic and upstanding in their peer groups and wider communities, all while keeping them entertained, fit and interested.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

This initiative has improved attendance, student-student interactions, student-teacher interactions and relationships within the school community overall. It has reduced breaches of the code of positive behaviour and has therefore also reduced the number of sanctions applied to students such as suspensions.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESPECT 2023

MAKING CONNECTIONS CARLOW LTI

ST. CATHERINE'S COMMUNITY SERVICES, CARLOW
KILKENNY & CARLOW ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Making Connections Carlow is a Local Training Initiative (LTI). LTI's focus on addressing the training needs of socially, economically, educationally disadvantaged learners, responding to the specific needs of a target group. The learners who engage on Making Connections Carlow LTI are people who are in recovery from addiction, substance misuse, linked with the probationary services and the homeless hostel services in Carlow. Learners work on a one to one basis with the tutors, this approach offers the learners, an individualised learning journey and a strong voice in how they learn. Making Connections offer QQI Level 3 modules in Employability Skills with the opportunity to achieve an overall award.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

The very essence of Making Connections learning initiative is it's centeredness around the individual. The learning needs and pace are individually tailored through one to one tutoring, facilitating their educational needs whilst at the same time developing social and personal skills and experiences.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Ultimately the goal of Making Connections for each individual learner is the learner led pace, confidence building and sense of what many of our learners describe as being part of something. This sense of being part of a learning programme was striking given the individualised nature of the programme and is testament to the power of learning as a conduit to inclusion while at the same time working with the individual.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

St. Catherine's Community Services, Carlow has a relationship with local employers and ability to identify relevant employment opportunities as they arise. These are underpinned by enhanced awareness of Community Education programmes and supports available as progression pathways towards further training and employment opportunities. Key to the programme's success is the setting, St Catherine's Community Services Centre, St. Catherine's other education and training programmes include the Moving On programme (QQI Level 4), This involves work experience and a focus on progression into employment as well as with a proven record.

The interagency approach is essential for the programme. Good governance is provided by a steering group which oversees and supports the programme offering sound advice from a range of the support services and funders.

Some our learners progressed to Carlow FET, La Nua Special C.E Scheme, TUS Programme, KCASES and employment.

There is no comparable programme operating in Carlow that offer the specific one to one training and support to this identified cohort of learners/trainees



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Excellence Award for Care 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CARE 2023

KAROL TORPEY

ST. ANNE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
KILLALOE, CO. CLARE
LIMERICK & CLARE ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

WINNER

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Karol Torpey, is our School Chaplain here in St. Anne's Community College. Karol is caring, humble, unassuming and very generous with her time. She cares deeply about our school and most importantly, the people in it. She lives and breathes the ethos of St. Anne's. She epitomises our Core Values. From lending an ear to someone who needs it, to decorating the entrance halls for various events and cheering our sports teams from the sidelines, she's always there. Karol recognises the good things in others. She runs our social media pages, 'Humans of St. Anne's' and we are known as #humannes. Karol promotes inclusion, she has a beautiful table which displays world religions outside our staffroom. She is always thinking of others and finds ways to promote joy in our school community.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Karol showed true leadership when she guided and supported the staff and students through the Covid-19 pandemic. She kept the spirit of St. Anne's alive on Microsoft Teams and her 'Humans of St. Anne's' social media pages. She would post messages of hope and positivity for students, staff and parents. Karol wrote postcards to all staff and sent gifts in the post. She supports the school community through bereavements and tough times. Karol organised a huge collection of supplies for the Ukranian appeal. Karol promotes wellbeing in our school at all times. At a recent JCT day, Karol organised events such as yoga, volleyball and board games. Karol is always one step ahead and always puts other people's wellbeing to the fore. She has created the idea of SOS 'Step Out Side' which means step outside your teaching and do something fun and creative. The 'Wellbeing Wheel' was established through a collaboration of ideas from Karol and our SSE team. It is used by teachers to promote wellbeing in their own classes. She is the Ethos Leader in our school and encourages us to be the best version of ourselves.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Karol should win this award because she selflessly acknowledges the goodness in others and I feel it's time for her hard work to be acknowledged and recognised. Karol goes about her day quietly and diligently. She is capable and competent, she always knows the right things to say and do. I would like for her to be pleasantly surprised by this award. Karol is an inspiring communicator and she motivates the people around her. Karol provides hope to our school community. She is a comfort for many, a confidante and a friend. She is passionate about her work, puts in long hours and she is always at the end of the phone when needed. Karol is an unsung hero in our school community. She's a creative lady, she weaves wellbeing into every aspect of school life. She holds competitions at Hallowe'en and at Christmas and encourages the school community to dress up. I think Karol deserves this award because I know that each member of the school community has been positively affected by Karol during their time at St. Anne's. We want her to know that she is appreciated by all of us and her excellent work doesn't go unnoticed.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Karol's 'Humans of St. Anne's' page is extremely popular in the school and the wider community. It showcases everything that is good about our school life and our school community. It exudes positivity and Karol shares positive quotes about mindfulness and reflection. All of the staff /students are familiar with the #humannes term. Karol recognises that excellence in education can only be achieved if the core values such as respect, care and equality are in place. She inspires others to look after their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. Karol encourages the senior 'Peer Mentors' group who are assigned to assist younger students to lead by good example by being caring and supportive to the entire school community. Karol gives students a voice, she allows them to actively plan and participate in events. She established the Ethos embassy. This work allows the students to step outside their comfort zones to become confident, reflective and resilient young people. Karol's belief in our students is tremendous. Karol is the catalyst in many of their lives in how they respect themselves and others.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CARE 2023

ANNE MALONE

PORTLAOISE FET
LAOIS & OFFALY ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

RUNNER UP

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Anne Malone is the Co-ordinator of Portlaoise Youthreach where she has been working for over 30 years with early school leavers. Whilst the educational landscape has changed dramatically and paperwork increased tenfold Anne has continued to keep the students front and centre. She is a selfless person who goes above and beyond for the students and the staff. When you first meet Anne you are instantly taken by her warm welcome and friendliness. She has a way of putting you at ease and as you continue your acquaintance with her she expands into the most caring kind person we have ever known. She has a brilliant sense of humour, loves a joke and is great fun. This award is for caring and it is difficult to imagine a person within an organisation who cares so much for her students and her staff and who goes above and beyond every time for them

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Anne executes her role in with a lot of heart and an uncompromising focus on her students. She is fair and sympathetic to everyone. This allows the young people to trust her. The students come in every morning to chat to Anne about their problems. She gives each of them all the time they need. They go for a walk and chat and there is always a difference in them when they return. She is on call 24/7 for all her students and staff, past and present. They phone her when she is sick, on holidays and in the middle of the night. She gets out of her sick bed to come into them if they need her. She prepares them their own special food every day, the ones that want sandwiches, the ones that like pasta or the ones that want soup. Nothing is too much and this extends to all the staff. She is famous for her endless supply of chocolate bars and she throws in an endless supply of love and kindness. The generosity she displays shows how much she goes over and above. She creates a friendly environment for everyone. She demonstrates exceptional commitment to her job. She does all this effortlessly and selflessly. She makes gestures of kindness daily.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

In three words "she deserves it". In a sentence "she puts the students and her staff front and centre to all her work and is the most caring person we know". Managers can manage from desks behind piles of never ending paperwork, Anne manages at her ease putting everyone else at ease. She has changed many lives for the better and continues to have the same enthusiasm. Student care is rooted in every part of Anne's day. Students know this and know they can be who they are around her. She will always listen and understand. She is an important link in the chain of care given to students on a daily basis. Staff can do a certain amount but Anne is the driving force. She is fearless and an inspiration to all her staff. She goes beyond the call of duty making herself available to students and staff at all times despite having commitments of her own. She is the heart of Portlaoise Youthreach. When discussing this in the centre these quotes attest to the type of person Anne is,

"She listens to me"

"I know she will fight my corner no matter what"

"Only for her I wouldn't be here"

"She will need an operation to remove the phone from her ear"

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Anne has had a huge impact on so many people. Many past students return to "visit Anne", her door is always open. a former student was in one day in the canteen and said to one of the staff "I'd do anything for Anne Malone". Students respect her and more importantly, as they move on with their lives when Anne meets them in the shop etc, they always stop and talk to her, and Anne ALWAYS gives them her time. She has changed many lives, changed the path for many students lives, given them all a second chance and a third chance and many more chances. She has listened to them, guided them, supported them, fed them, clothed them, minded them when they were sick or sad, mammy them and even in some cases kept them alive. They say there is one person who makes a difference for everyone and Anne Malone is that one person who makes a difference for everyone.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CARE 2023

ARTNONYMOUS FUNDRAISING EVENT

CASTLEBLAYNEY COLLEGE
CAVAN & MONAGHAN ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Artnonymous' was a fundraising event in memory of the late Aisling Mooney and Frank Mohan. Aisling and Frank were parents of students enrolled in the school who died of cancer and COVID 19 respectively. Aisling left behind four beautiful girls all of whom were in the school at that time. Frank left his two beautiful daughters and son, both girls still in the school. The event involved a chance to become a proud owner of an original piece of Art kindly donated by our own students and local artists. This art work was these subsequently raffled to all those who made a donation to this cause. Donations ranged from 1 euro - 500 euro. This event captured not only the local community but the wider region of Monaghan. The funds raised from the event were donated towards Castleblayney Cancer Society and Drogheda Special Care Unit.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Nicola Toal: Is a guidance counsellor in Castleblayney College. Her passion and care for the welfare of all students is simply remarkable. Amy Waring: Amy is a qualified Art teacher in Castleblayney College. Amy joined our school recently and through her interest for the care and welfare of the students worked closely with Nicola to create this outstanding fundraising event, Artnonymous. Nicola and Amy, engaged the local school and wider and regional community of Castleblayney and Monaghan to support this novel fundraising event that has left a lasting legacy here within our school community. Hundreds of pieces of Art work were donated to the school to be part of the fundraiser. This event became more than simply donating money to a special cause but created the space for people to donate their time and creativity in an effort to raise much needed funding for these worthy causes. This event not only defined the care and respect held for our students it embodied our work as a DEIS school rooted in the local community.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Both ladies are deserving of this award because they are invested in the welfare of their students beyond the confines of the classroom. They used their own skills, experience and empathy to shed a light of the misfortune of others to help those in need particularly their students at such a devastating time in their left. This was so much more than a fundraising event. This event ignited the creativity and desire to give much greater than the value of the 14 thousand euro that was raised. Niocla and Amy dedicated many hours, evenings, weekends and holidays, to promote and support this campaign which they single-handedly led. I am remarkably proud of all the staff in Castleblayney College but on this occasion both ladies defined our mission here in the school and richly deserve recognition for their effort.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Nicola and Amy have not only raised awareness of the needs of others but they have demonstrated through their vision and actions how we can manifest our values and ethos as an ETB school. Their actions have influenced many other staff in our school to reflect on how they too might consider stepping outside their normal routines to bring added value to the school experience of their students and the wider school community. They have shone a light on the wider meaning of education that gets lost in the day-to-day management of school communities around our sphere of influence beyond the classroom. Furthermore it elevated the standing of the local school in the local and regional community. This event really struck a cord with the public. It was very novel but it allowed people share in their talents which was very powerful through the medium of Art. And above all it provided a blanket of comfort to a grieving family and school community during this time.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CARE 2023

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

COLÁISTE AN CHRAOIBHÍN
CORK ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The Bystander Intervention Programme was introduced to our Transition Year group in 2022 and is currently being delivered to the 2023 TY cohort. The new initiative was introduced by Professor Louise Crowley in UCC in response to the need to address the issues of consent, sexual harassment and violence in second level schools. This initiative is the first of its kind in Ireland and will inform the first ever research collated on this age category. In response to our capacity to engage with students, this short training programme identifies the prevalence and impact of sexual harassment and relationship violence and seeks to educate and empower students to identify and challenge perceived social norms of unacceptable behaviour.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

The programme consists of 6 workshops. The workshops present students with an opportunity to reflect on their daily social interactions and to recognise the frequency of sexual harassment, hostility and even violence. Through active participation, students identify potential harmful or abusive behaviours and learn the skills to challenge and reject all forms of sexual harassment. For many of the students, this is their first opportunity to reflect on social norms and to gain a clear understanding of issues relating to consent and the boundaries surrounding sexual assault, rape and abusive behaviours. They learn key intervention skills which can be utilised if and when necessary. They have the opportunity to discuss this sensitive topic in a safe space, empowering them as individuals and as a group to challenge and speak out against sexual harassment and violence, not only in our school community but in wider society. The impact of these workshops will certainly stretch far and wide and hopefully will lead to attitude and behavioural change across our school and community.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

In Coláiste an Chraoibhín we are very proud of the care we provide for our students. We recognise the challenges that young people face in society at present and we acknowledge our responsibility to respond to the need to address these challenges. The Bystander Intervention Training Programme offers us a very valuable tool in our delivery of care to our students. There is often a reluctance to address such sensitive issues as sexual harassment, rape and abusive behaviours in a classroom however it is only through providing education in these areas that we can tackle the problems and move to a safer society. We seek to activate students sense of personal responsibility and capacity to contribute to a safer school and a safer society. Having the courage to speak out is the key and by providing a safe caring and supportive environment in Colaiste an Chraoibhin, we endeavour to make a life long contribution to each student through the delivery of this invaluable training and to cultivate a zero tolerance culture both inside and outside the school.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The students complete an anonymous pre-training questionnaire and a post-training questionnaire. These questionnaires are submitted to UCC to gather data on the 15-18 year old cohort. There is currently no research on this cohort. UCC are reporting very positive feedback and the preliminary research indicates an increase in students awareness of sexual harassment and violence whilst empowering them to make informed and responsible decisions. The students in Colaiste an Chraoibhin have fully embraced all aspects of the programme and have already started to use some of the skills learned in other areas of their lives. The students are grateful for the training and have given very positive feedback on the ground.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CARE 2023

TOGETHER ALTHOUGH WE ARE APART

KILKENNY ADULT LEARNING CENTRE
KILKENNY & CARLOW ETB

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

'Together Although we are Apart' is a publication made up of over fifty contributions of work - poems, stories, memories, photos, sketches and drawings from a very diverse group of learners and staff from Kilkenny Adult Learning Centre, KCETB. What makes this publication so special is the fact that it was carried out entirely during lockdown. There were no face to face meetings and what started as a few mandalas/ mindfulness colouring sheets resulted in a magnificent publication. The book was circulated to the wider community, learners and staff with very positive reviews.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

A group of tutors under the management of Carmel Bryan, planned and organised how the book would work. Tutors led the way and shared examples, created a poster and an invitation for all learners and staff.

Contact was in many different forms - stronger learners were able to manage online with Teams, others relied on phone calls, WhatsApp video calls, the post and sometimes work being dropped at door steps. The only condition was that the contribution needed to be something positive.

Learners and staff embraced the project and worked hard distributing, working on drafts and supporting learners to be part of a bigger project.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

What started out as a very simple idea, gathered great momentum and grew in size. Everyone who took part, enjoyed the work and engagement with KCETB staff, they looked forward to the online sessions and the delivery of the work packs. Tutors were creative with

the deliveries too, treats, chocolate, tea bags and KCETB promotional material all added to the feeling of being connected to something bigger. For some, it was their only connection with the outside world. Contributions came from Literacy groups, ESOL groups, Family Learning groups, Digital Skills groups, Traveller women, Disability groups and tutors. It was the most inclusive project carried out in the centre for many years in difficult circumstances.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The publication was and still is held in pride of place amongst projects in the Adult Learning Service. It was launched at a breakfast event where all contributors attended. The sense of pride and feeling of wellness was very evident on the morning.

As a result of 'Together Although we are Apart', the centre decided to roll out a similar project with the large number of Ukrainian learners during the summer months of 2022. Again the only condition was that the contribution needed to be a positive one from their Kilkenny experience during the summer of 2022.

Tutors and learners were again very creative - pictures, collages, drawings, poems and stories in all formats were gathered. A lovely book was launched at an Awards Day in November 2022.

Following on from the success of both publications, it has been suggested that a Newsletter could be published every month or term, to reflect life in the Adult Learning Centre in Kilkenny.

Positive experiences like these publications greatly enhance the morale and sense of belonging to a wider group where all work is respected and learners are treated equally.





#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Excellence in Further Education and Training Award 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE IN FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2023

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) PROVISION

MILFORD FET CENTRE
DONEGAL ETB

WINNER



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The initiative I am nominating is our newly mainstreamed RPL Provision Service (Donegal ETB). Two years ago, working in partnership with Limerick and Clare ETB, we aimed to develop a project which would provide an alternative accelerated route to qualifications, initially for healthcare workers, 'Validating Competencies of Care Setor Employees' VCCSE using RPL as the mechanism to ensure their experience was recognised, validated and certified. The project far exceeded its projected ambitions, resulting in RPL being embedded as a key process within the Donegal ETB and the continuation of our RPL Office, in July 2022. Currently, we have 125 RPL active applicants and a further twenty waiting to start the process with a new mentor. To date over 500 beneficiaries in Donegal have achieved academic success through our RPL provision.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

RPL defines a process for FET providers that is different to formal teaching / learning and assessment processes of a taught programme. Thus, we needed to develop robust documentation and procedures to support and quality assure the process. To ensure expertise and best practice were achieved, twenty-eight ETB staff from Donegal and Limerick and Clare ETBs participated in an NFQ Level 9 Special Purpose Award in RPL, as part of the VCCSE, delivered by the Atlantic Technological University which informed the development of guiding principles, documentation and assessment tools conversant with national and international evidenced methodologies. As a result the publication of an 'RPL Toolkit for Education and Training Providers', was launched in June 2022 and made available nationally to all ETBs. The Toolkit includes publicity material, guidance for participants, assignment briefs, tasks for portfolio building and assessment rubrics to guide the process. It is envisioned this will be beneficial for all ETB personnel considering the RPL process as a provision. Our RPL Coordinator delivers RPL training nationally when requested.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Our RPL Provision Service is deserving of this award for the following reasons:

- we provide a supportive process that opens up learning and employment pathways for everyone
- we are promoting integration and diversity by reaching out to those in employment that have missed out on academic opportunities as well as community members considered 'hard to reach'.
- our connection with other ETB providers and local HE institutions helps to encourage collaboration with staff and other learners developing expertise regionally and nationally.
- we provide an inclusive, integrated, holistic approach to engaging individuals in lifelong learning by holding the individual at the centre of the process, and supporting applicants as they reflect on their formal and informal learning experiences to achieve academic progress. incorporating
- Universal Design Learning (UDL) representations inform the assessment delivery and presentation of the RPL applicants' portfolio(s) of evidence ensuring that diversity of learners, with different learning styles, abilities and cultural backgrounds are accommodated.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Enabling participants to transfer skills and competencies into relevant qualifications has:

- Improved local and regional mobility and enhanced applicants' further engagement with FET and access to Higher Education.
- Increased participant self-confidence through validation is evident in feedback and evaluations.

For example, while Ulster Bank was exiting from Ireland, we assisted employees in achieving academic success. Many had low-level qualifications and difficulty getting job interviews, despite twenty/ thirty years working in the bank. RPL helped them to consolidate their previous learned experiences and seventeen Ulster Bank employees achieved NFQ Level 6 QQI Major Awards in Management, Administration and Business. This has made employment mobility for these employees a reality.

We are currently experiencing demand from the childcare sector and people migrating to Donegal in need of nationally recognised qualifications. RPL for carers is still ongoing. Our RPL experience is a success and has proved that RPL helps to increase competitiveness, sustains local economic growth, and allows for social inclusion and equity.

ETB EXCELLENCE IN FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2023

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES

LIMERICK & CLARE ETB

RUNNER UP



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The Further Education and Training Support Service function of Innovation, Development and Quality within the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board College of FET is the integration of the support functions of Quality Assurance, Curriculum Development, Professional Learning and Development, Technology Enhanced Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation, and the development and management of consortium-led apprenticeship programmes. This integrated approach provides the opportunity to deliver a coordinated, strategic, effective, and integrated support service, aligned to the achievement of the key priorities of the College of FET Strategic Framework, supporting the delivery of quality teaching and learning.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

One specific example of work carried out by the Innovation, Development and Quality Support Services, and a significant initiative developed and implemented recently is that of the Recognition of Prior Learning processes which were developed and applied to achieve certification of the Level 6 (EQF Level 5) Advanced Certificate in Hairdressing, and its value in recognizing the lifelong learning and experiences of hairdressers who before this would not have had the opportunity to avail of a formal qualification in their field.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Innovation, Development and Quality Support Services, working collectively and collaboratively with both College of FET provision and with industry representative bodies, have developed and implemented an innovative and inclusive process for Recognition of Prior learning leading to the major award Advanced Certificate in Hairdressing.

The strength of this collaborative development with industry partners has resulted in the successful outcome, in which an RPL process has been developed and implemented for applicants to achieve certification of a major award. This project demonstrates significant innovation in the approach to certification of major award qualifications, in particular those leading to apprenticeship qualifications.

Enabling the ETB's College of FET Access, Transfer and Progression policy ethos of ensuring inclusivity and equality of opportunity for prospective and current learners, the collaborative development of this innovative RPL process by the Innovation, Development and Quality Support Services gives value to all previous relevant learning, no matter where or how this learning has occurred

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board held a conferring ceremony of the first eight graduates of the new QQI award 'Advanced Certificate in Hairdressing'. These graduates are the first nationally recognised, qualified hairdressers in the country, and significantly have all achieved their certification through a Recognition of Prior learning process which validated their non formal and informal learning.

Testimonies from the graduates at the conferring event were sincere, heartfelt and passionate. They spoke of not being valued in their profession, despite their extensive experience. They spoke of being undervalued, that they did not consider themselves to be fully qualified. They spoke of their sense of achievement, validation, acceptance and approval. The RPL access to the Advanced Certificate has made a considerable difference to the lives of the graduates, and this achievement is hugely thanks to the innovative work of Innovation, Development and Quality Support Services, to work collaboratively within the organisation and with industry partners, to achieve what may not have been considered possible in the past.

ETB EXCELLENCE IN FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2023

GREEN CAMPUS INITIATIVE

DUNDRUM COLLEGE OF FURTHER
EDUCATION
DUBLIN & DÚN LAOGHAIRE ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The College Initiative aims to promote sustainability through four key areas: Biodiversity and Community Outreach, Waste Management, Energy Management, and Climate Action. In Biodiversity and Community Outreach, students of ecology and horticulture build a floral garden to provide food for pollinators and introduce new planting schemes to local community gardens. In Waste Management, the College invests in a food composter, implements efficient recycling systems, and encourages the use of reusable cups. Energy Management focuses on reducing energy consumption through awareness campaigns and retrofitting campus buildings, and the Climate Action initiative provides education on the facts of climate change to students.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

In Biodiversity and Community Outreach, students of Applied Ecology have conducted an inventory and analysis of the existing floral diversity of both college campuses, and are devising a planting scheme to improve the existing conditions. The horticulture students have introduced new planting schemes to the gardens of St. Michael's house organisation. In Waste Management, the College has invested in an industrial food digester to turn food waste into compost, and has implemented efficient recycling systems with the installation of recyclable units and different bin systems. The college is encouraging the use of reusable cups, paper shredding and electronic equipment recycling. The College is taking steps to reduce energy consumption, such as providing information on best practices and retrofitting campus buildings with new windows. The college has also installed a Water Harvesting system which will provide water for individual planting beds, store backup water and create an aquatic wildlife habitat. The Climate Action initiative is aimed at educating students on the facts of climate change through awareness campaigns.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

This initiative should win the award because it is a comprehensive and well-rounded approach to promoting sustainability. The initiative addresses multiple environmental concerns such as biodiversity, waste management, energy conservation, and climate action. By involving students and the local community, it not only addresses environmental issues but also provides educational and hands-on learning opportunities. The innovative projects such as the food composter and the water harvesting system demonstrate a commitment to finding creative solutions to environmental challenges. Overall, this initiative showcases a commitment to sustainability and a positive impact on the environment and community.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The initiative is having a significant impact in several areas. In Biodiversity, the new planting schemes are providing food and habitat for bees, butterflies, and other insects, improving the local ecosystem. The work by Applied Ecology students in inventorying is providing valuable data and insights for future efforts. In Waste Management, the food composter is reducing the amount of food waste going to landfills and providing a source of compost. The recycling systems, reusable cups, and paper shredding efforts are reducing waste and conserving resources. In Energy Management, the information campaigns and retrofitting efforts are reducing the college's energy consumption and carbon footprint, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. The water harvesting system is conserving water and creating a habitat for aquatic wildlife. In Climate Action, the awareness campaigns are educating students and raising consciousness about the importance of addressing climate change. This will likely have a lasting impact as students take what they've learned and apply it in their personal and professional lives.

ETB EXCELLENCE IN FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2023

TRANSITION YEAR FET INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

DUNMORE FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE
GALWAY & ROSCOMMON ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

After acknowledging a gap between secondary education and FET in our catchment area, Louise and Alan devised a pilot programme to engage the TY students from Dunmore Community School, in order to introduce them to all that FET can offer. Throughout the programme, students actively participated in a wide variety of areas, including barista training, podcasting workshops, polytunnel work, clothing upcycling, interview readiness and marketing techniques, as well as an introduction to photography - practical skills invaluable to their futures. On completion of the course, students were fully trained baristas, could research, script, record and host a podcast; upcycle their clothes and make more sustainable choices, and grow herbs and vegetables in our polytunnel. Skills they will use for the rest of their lives.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

From the outset, Louise and Alan envisioned a programme that is hands-on, practical, interactive and FET centered for the students. Whether it was an FET focused photography task or working in our on-site polytunnel, their future learning horizons were always at the core of Louise and Alan's planning. Additionally, this programme unlocked the doors to further education and training and made it a viable option for students to engage with upon school completion. Some of the students went on to get part-time work following the barista course, and this is a great skill to bring to the hospitality sector, whether that be through education or employment. Students also brought home their herbs and vegetables from the polytunnel and replanted them in their own gardens, which is another lifelong skill. It teaches them the true meaning of field to fork, whilst learning budgeting skills and healthy eating. During one of the upcycling sessions, students learned how to turn a pair of old jeans into a shoulder bag, and were educated about the downside of fast fashion and to make more sustainable and environmentally aware fashion choices.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

I believe the TY Programme should win this award because it teaches students skills that they may not learn in school, and also makes them more capable and qualified for summer and weekend work. It gives them a taste of what life is like after school and an introduction into further education/college life. This is something new and fresh and innovative, and thus is so deserving of this award. From the outset, Louise and Alan ensured that it was a welcoming, inclusive, positive and open space for all students. The "Miss" and "Mr." were gone and students always called them by their first names. Act like adults, treated like adults. As Principal of Dunmore Community School Declan Quinn said of the initiative, "It was a great change of scenery for the students to get away from the classroom and walk down to the Centre. They got to learn new subjects and broaden their horizons, and experience things they otherwise wouldn't have got the opportunity to." This alone encapsulates what Louise and Alan have conceived and achieved.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The impact this programme has had on students is immeasurable - each Tuesday afternoon, the Centre here in Dunmore has been a hub of friendly, happy, mannerly, engaged and enthusiastic teenagers willing to muck in and throw at their at whatever is given to them. As Louise and Alan would say, working on Tuesdays with the TYs is pure joy. TY student Caoimhe commented, "I would have never thought of a career in broadcasting before this course and now it's something I'm really interested in." And another student emailed to say, "I think that Louise and Alan really helped me gain confidence, and although I knew I loved photography, I think GRET made me realise that I could have a chance to do something in the future like a digital media course. I would also like to say that the compliment paid by Louise really gave me a boost in confidence and will stick with me for a long time. I hope they know much fun I had, it was truly impossible to be in a bad mood with two people who were so positive and could light up a room simply by walking into it. I hope to come back to the centre in the future for a course."

ETB EXCELLENCE IN FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2023

FAMILY LEARNING PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

KCETB QUALITY ASSURANCE
KILKENNY & CARLOW ETB

SHORTLISTED



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

This initiative demonstrates the benefit of the power of collaboration across ETB's. The initiative involved the development of a Level 3 Special Purpose award in Learning to Support Children in Primary School. The programme was developed collaboratively by ten ETB's over a 6-month period. These were broken down as follows:

Supporting Children with Learning in Primary School: QA Co-ordinator Programme Development Expert (LCETB), AEO (KCETB), ALO (DDLETB), Family Learning SME (MSLETB)

Supporting Children with Literacy/Digital Literacy in Primary School: Programme Development Expert (CMETB), ALO x 2 (KETB, DETB), Family Learning SME (LOETB)

Supporting Children with Maths in Primary School: QA Co-ordinator (LMETB), Family Learning SME (TETB), QA Staff Officer (KCETB),

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

The necessity to provide options for certification outcomes for learners participating in family learning programmes across ETBs drove this initiative. Policy developments in the area provided a rationale for the development of the award. Family learning approaches are advocated for by SOLAS in their FET Strategy as an effective means of diversifying literacy and numeracy provision. The Adult Literacy for Life Strategy acknowledges that the modern understandings of literacy have grown to include areas such as family learning. This strategy sets out the necessity to "grow family literacy and family learning approaches as part of a targeted programme of support for health, social care and family support interventions" (2021: p.12). In addition, the Enabling Inter generational Learning (2020) notes "the potential for devising short QQI modules or elements of modules that match family

literacy purposes and delivery should be resourced"(p122). The award was developed within this policy context and as such demonstrated why it is deserving of the award.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

This initiative demonstrates the power of the collaboration across the ETB sector to meet an identified need and to provide opportunities for learners. A team of 11 people were tasked with the development of the award with representation from Subject Matter Experts, Adult Literacy Organisers and Quality Assurance Officers and Managers. The breath of membership ensured that a broad range of perspectives were considered. Three subgroups were established to work on the four core areas identified following an initial consultation process. Given the breath of ETBs involved a Shared Curriculum approach was deployed and QQI were consulted on an ongoing basis to ensure all key areas were attended to including the consideration of the new Broad Standards guidelines. The project team worked collaboratively together to ensure the award was submitted to QQI for validation within a five month time frame demonstrating the effectiveness of the collaborative process. This initiative should win this award as it is a clear demonstration of how ETBs are stronger together.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The approach undertaken ensured a programme with a clearly justified need was developed in an efficient manner, with input from a broad range of experts and an extensive consultation process. The programme will be offer accredited options for parents participating in Family Learning Awards across the 16 ETBs and serves to support parents in their role as the primary educator of their child. It also demonstrated mechanisms for effective programme development and the power of collaboration.



#LÁETM

2 Márta 2023

10 mbliana de Bhoird Oideachais
agus Oiliúna á gceiliúradh

Gradam Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha Barr Feabhais sa Ghaeloideachas 2023



GRADAM SHEOSAIMH MHIC DHONNCHA, BARR FEABHAIS SA GHAELOIDEACHAS

GAELCHOLÁISTE CHEATHARLACH

KILKENNY & CARLOW ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

WINNER

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Is dalta thar a bheith díograiseach agus tiomáinte é Seán le grá mór aige don Ghaeilge agus don Ghaelscolaíocht. Tá bua na dteangacha ag Seán agus labhraíonn sé Béarla agus Spáinnis sa bhaile mar aon le bheith líofa sa Ghaeilge agus í a úsáid ar scoil. Mar cheannaire scoile, léiríonn sé an-suim sa Ghaeilge agus spreagann sé daltaí na scoile an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus a chur chun cinn.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Is iomaí rud atá déanta ag Seán chun feabhas a chur ar a chuid Gaeilge agus chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa scoil.

- Is ball é den Choiste Gaeilge le 6 bliana anois agus stiúran sé imeachtaí Gaeilge sa scoil mar aon le hobair a dhéanamh leis an eagraíocht Gaeilge, Glór Ceatharlach sa cheantar.
- Anuraidh, bhuaigh sé an duais don aistriúchán is fearr ó Bhéarla go Gaeilge i gCúige Laighin sa chomórtas Aistreoirí Óga. Eagraítear an comórtas seo ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach i gcomhar leis an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán. Tá an comórtas oscailte do dhaltaí ar fud na hÉireann a raibh 15 bliana acu an 1 Meán Fómhair (den bhliain acadúil reatha) agus a bhfuil sé de chumas iontu aistriúchán a dhéanamh ó Bhéarla go Gaeilge, nó ó cheann de 5 theanga Eorpacha eile go Gaeilge. Tá trí sprioc ag an gcomórtas: ardchaighdeán Gaeilge a chur chun cinn, ilteangachas a spreagadh i measc daltaí meánscoile agus spéis daltaí i ngairmeacha teanga a mhúscailt.
- Is ceannaire Gaeilge é sa scoil - oibríonn sé la daltaí uile na scoile grá don teanga a mhúscailt.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Mar a luadh thuas, is dalta eiseamláireach é Seán agus is ambasadóir iontach é don teanga. Ba chóir dó an t-aitheantas ceart a fháil do gach atá déanta aige ar son na Gaeilge, sa scoil, i gCeatharlach agus ag leibhéal náisiúnta. Táimid an-bhródúil as an dalta seo agus gach atá déanta aige chun cur leis an nGaeilge agus pobal na scoile a spreagadh chun níos mó suime agus grá a léiriú sa teanga agus gach a mbaineann leis an nGaelscolaíocht. Spreagann Seán daltaí bunscoile oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge a roghnú don mheánscolaíocht agus cuireann an iarracht a dhéanann sé sa phobal leis an bhfás agus forbairt don Ghaelcholáiste anseo. Níl san fhoirm iarratais seo ach blaiseadh de gach rud atá déanta ag Seán.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Chabhraigh Seán go mór leis an scoil caighdeán na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn tar éis Covid. Thaispeáin sé don phobal scoile an bród atá aige dá theanga dhúchais agus spreag sé seo daoine mórthimpeall air an Ghaeilge a úsáid timpeall na scoile. D'oibrigh Seán leis an bpobal Gaeilge anseo i gCeatharlach chomh maith leis an obair a rinne sé le Glór Ceatharlach agus na feachtais áitiúla a chuireann siad i bhfeidhm. Mar thoradh ar an mbua a bhí aige sa chomórtas Aistritheoirí Óga, tá i bhfad níos mó suime ag daltaí na scoile san aistriúchán agus chuir an-chuid daltaí isteach ar chomórtais éagsúla don aistriúchán i mbliana. Ní hamháin san aistriúchán ina raibh tionchar ag Seán. Spreag sé daltaí imeachtaí a eagrú trí mheán na Gaeilge, páirt a ghlacadh i ndíospóireachtaí Gaeilge srl. Is ceannaire láidir é ar son na Gaeilge anseo sa scoil.

GRADAM SHEOSAIMH MHIC DHONNCHA, BARR FEABHAIS SA GHAELOIDEACHAS

FOIREANN TEAGAISC CHOLÁISTE OIRIALL

COLÁISTE OIRIALL

CAVAN & MONAGHAN ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

RUNNER UP

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Is trasghearradh daoine iad foireann Choláiste Oiriall a bhfuil grá acu do teanga Ghaeilge i gcoitinne acu. Is fíor agus má iad, cuid acu nua-oilte agus cuid eile acu le chor a bheith 20 bliain taithí. Tá mná agus fir ann ón dá thaobh den teorainn agus is as Muineachán féin níos mó agus níos mó acu de réir mar a thagann iarscoláirí ar ais. Creideann siad go láidir sa Ghaeloideachas agus cuireann siad coincheap an tumoideachais i bhfeidhm. Tá siad bríomhar, fuinniúil, spreagtha agus tiomanta.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Tagann 20% de na scoláirí chugainn ó bhunscoileanna na scoileanna Gaeilge iad. Bíonn an cúram, fiú dualgas ar an fhoireann teagaisc Gaeilge líofa labhartha a thabhairt dóibh. Eagraíonn said ranganna ó 10.00 r.n go dtí 1.00 i.n. an chéad sé Shatharn ag tús na scoilbhliana don ghrúpa áirithe scoláirí seo. Eagraíonn siad ceardlanna téarmaíochta i ndiaidh am scoile ar feadh sé seachtain roimh agus i ndiaidh na Samhna idir 4.00 i.n agus 5.20 i.n. ag díriú ar shainthéarmaíocht sna mórábhair fhoclacha: Eolaíocht, Stair, Tíreolaíocht agus Mata. Tá na ceardlanna seo mar áis dul siar agus mar áis ullmhúcháin do na scrúduithe Nollag. Cuireann na múinteoirí tacaíocht obair bhaile ar fáil fosta. Cuireann siad cuiditheoirí nó cinnirí isteach sna ranganna chéad bhliana gach lá Ní dhéanann siad an obair bhaile dóibh ach míníonn siad dóibh na ceisteanna go soiléir, taispeánann siad dóibh cá bhfuil na freagraí sna téacsleabhair isteach sna ranganna chéad bhliain níos moille sa bhliain má mheastar go bhfuil gá leis. Cuireann coiste den fhoireann múinteoirí oiliúnt ar na cuiditheoirí agus ar na cinnirí chun plé le lucht na chéad bhliain nua.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Tá glúin nua daoine óga ar fud contae Mhuineacháin a bhfuil Gaeilge acu de bharr ní amháin cuid oibre Choláiste Oiriall ach obair na gceithre Ghaelscoil sa chontae fosta. Bíonn seo an-soiléir ag na deiridh seachtaine agus micléinn tríú leibhéal ar ais sa bhaile agus iad ag obair ina gcuid postanna páirtaimseartha. Is beag siopa,caifé, garáiste, bialann, óstán ar bhaile Mhuineachán nach bhfuil ar a laghad duine amháin ann a bhfuil Gaeilge aige agus é/ breá toillteanch í a labhairt lena chuid custaiméirí. Tá an fhoireann múinteoirí fíordhíograiseach chun scothoideachais a chur ar fáil do dhaltáí agus go bhfuil an buntáiste ann go bhfuil sé trí mheán na Gaeilge. Is mionGhaeltacht atá sa scoil agus an fhoireann teagaisc atá taobh thiar de sin. Spreagann siad a chéile agus spreagann siad daltaí. Tugann siad ar dhaltáí machnach a dhéanamh ar fhiúntas agus ar luach ár dteanga dúchais.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Deis ag tuismitheoirí altanna faoi éachtaí na scoile a léamh sa dhátteangach, 'Scéilíní' a éisíonn muid dhá uair sa bhliain le haltaanna ann ag ceiliúradh éachtaí na coile. Líon ar daltaí a fhreatalaíonn ar choláistí Gaeilge sa Ghaeltachta le linn an tsamhraidh. Reáchtáil muid coirmeacha ceoil agus ceoldrámaí trí Ghaeilge, ag aistriú script go Gaeilge go minic. Bailíonn muid an oiread acmhainní atá ar fáil i nGaeilge le chéile bíodh sin cumhachtphointí, nótaí, físeáin, postaeir srl chun na ranganna a shaibhr'u ar fud na scoile agus chun príomhtheanga na scoile a threisiú. Buann micléinn dár gcuid scoláireachtaí tríú leibhéal agus éiríonn le neart acu scaoláireachtaí a bhaint amach a chuireann loistín ar fáil dóibh i dTeach na Gaeilge bíodh sin in UCD nó Coláiste na Tríonóide srl. Aithnítear i saol na Gaeilge an céatadán an-ard d'iarscoláirí Choláiste Oiriall a éiríonn leo lositín a fháil i dTeach na Gaeilge. Téann iarscoláirí ar aghaidh le bheith ina n-oifigigh i gCumainn na Mac Léinn agus sna Cumainn Ghaelacha sna hinstiúidí tríú leibhéal éagsúla.

GRADAM SHEOSAIMH MHIC DHONNCHA, BARR FEABHAIS SA GHAELOIDEACHAS

SAOTHAR AN TSAOIL

GAIRMSCOIL CHÚ ULADH DONEGAL ETB



SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

We would like to nominate Saothar an tSaoil GCU (Business in the community). The initiative is run for 2nd year students over a 6 week period. While I was working as the HSCL in the school and with my subject being Business I was very interested in providing this programme for our students but when I approached our SCP coordinator and she contacted BITC we learned that they had not developed such a programme through the medium of Irish and it was at this point that we encouraged and liaised with them on this matter, so in 2021 while recruiting new companies for the programme BITC were delighted when Optum said they had staff members with Irish who were interested in delivering the programme to Gairmscoil Chú Uladh and in October 2021 we began our journey and we are delighted to have this link now with Optum which is continuing this year.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

During the 6 week period the staff of Optum came into the school to work with the students and to educate them on all the work that is being carried out by Optum. The students got an opportunity to interview staff members and learn all about what they do in their role in the company which means they learn about all the different positions the company has to offer. The main objective of this programme is to show students of all the different ways that people can get from being a leaving certificate student to being a member of staff in Optum and that it can be achieved by everyone. The staff members who attended the school spoke about their own educational journey and how they are doing what they are doing now. The students carried out research on the company and also prepared a presentation on the company as part of the programme, this was of great benefit to them as they were preparing for CBA presentations which they must carry out in 3rd year so this prepared them for that. All of this work was carried out through the medium of Irish. They also spent time discussing scholarships the company runs and how to apply.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

This initiative was the first of its kind and we were the first school in Ireland to ever participate in such an initiative developed and provided through the medium of Irish. As a rural Gaeltacht school in the heart of Donegal we promote the Irish language daily in our all Irish speaking school and now we have a local company on board to educate students of all the potential that this education offers them and also encourage young people to stay in their own county and country to work. As we are in the scéim aitheantais it is very important for us to be able to provide courses to our student but it is difficult to do this through the medium of Irish so by us helping with the development of this programme we have now paved the way for other schools across the country to do the same and this year 3 Gaelscoil's in Dublin have entered the programme. Had Gairmscoil Chú Uladh not continued to work with their School Completion Officer and Business in the Community to have a programme developed for Irish speaking schools this would never have been an option. We are proud that we were the first school to develop this programme.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Words cannot describe the impact this has had on our students, to have the same opportunities as other schools in larger urban towns & English speaking schools was fantastic. Our students not only had the staff of Optum come here weekly they also got a tour of the Company and met other members of our school community who are working there and could see that there are a lot of opportunities out there to stay in our county to work. They got to meet the CEO and Managing Director who educated them on how they motivate staff and how to have pride in our heritage and language and to use it. During the programme local media groups interviewed myself & the students through the medium of Irish & English. We also recorded a podcast all about the programme and the benefits of it. The students developed their confidence and they thoroughly enjoyed the programme. The students now know how useful having Irish is and that it has a richness of culture that reaches way beyond our own country. Having Irish is a bonus that we can carry with pride but developing this link created a renewed love of the language for all involved.

GRADAM SHEOSAIMH MHIC DHONNCHA, BARR FEABHAIS SA GHAELOIDEACHAS

POBAIL TEANGA CHOLÁISTE DAIBHÉID

COLÁISTE DAIBHÉID
CORK ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Pobail Teanga Choláiste Daibhéid

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Mar aon le gach uile rud atá breactha síos san iarratas maidir le 'Excellence in Education Award' bíonn cur chuige faoi leith ann sa teanga:

1. Coiste na Gaeilge ina bhfuil daltaí agus múinteoirí ag plé nithe go cothrom.
2. Timpeallacht foghlamtha ina bhfuil an béim ar an teanga a spreagadh tré imeachtaí taitneamhach a chruthú ar nós 'Na Cluichí Ocras', CD Factóir, Ceoldrámaí, Díospóireacht is dramaíocht, clubanna maidne is clubanna eile
3. Cur chuige nua-chruthaithe maidir leis an gcur chuige sa chéad bhliain ina bhfuil an chéad mhí caite ag tacú leis na daltaí feidhmiú tre mhéan na Gaeilge seachas a bheith ag múineadh ábhair. Ciallaíonn sé go bhfuil gach múinteoir ina múinteoir teanga ó thus. Tá an duine i bhfeighil ar an gcóras seo tar éis cur i láthair a dhéanamh faoi leis an BOO agus áiteanna eile nach í.
4. Ranganna ar líne do dhaltaí roimh dóibh teacht go dtí an scoil, go h-áirithe dóibh ó scoileanna nach gaelscoil iad.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

5. Comórtas & Féile Eolaíochta leis na mbunscoileanna tré Ghaeilge. Blitzeanna peile is iomáint (sna mbunscoileanna) a dhíríonn ar an nGaeilge tré rialacha breise i leith an teanga.
6. Tionscnamh teanga sa cheantar máguaird ina bhfuil fógraí dá-theangach sna siopáí is uruile ann do chustaeiméirí gur féidir leo triail a bhaint as a gcúpla focail.
7. Ranganna curtha ar fáil do mhúinteoirí/Cuntóirí ag múinteoirí eile chun a gcuid cumais a fheabhsú go leathúnach.

Is Gaelcholáiste í Coláiste Daibhéid atá suite i lár na cathrach i gCorcaigh. Ceann dos na dushláin is mó ná nach bhfuil aon rian den teanga sa cheantar máguaird mar sin bíonn dulagas orainne mion-ghaeltacht a chruthú agus ansin an teanga a leathnú amach sa phobail mar aon le scoth an oideachais a chur ar fáil. Tá sin déanta le 30 bhliain anuas againn.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Ciallaíonn ár gcuid oibre go bhfuil féidearacht ann i ndeisceart na cathrach do scoláire an turas oideachais a leanúint sa Mhéanscolaíocht. Mar aon le sin tá stádas an teanga sa cheantar feabhsaithe leis.



photos to Marc O'Sullivan



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Excellence in Education Award 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

BOSTON PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TOUR

LONGFORD & WESTMEATH ETB
MULLINGAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

WINNER

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

A group of staff members within LWETB (Mullingar Community College) who decided to visit Harvard University to research the Proving Grounds Approach to tackling educational disadvantage. The group engaged in practitioner research, in school in Ireland, and in Harvard University in Boston to engage with an internationally renowned programme that is proven to assist in tackling educational disadvantage. Their aims are to take the learning from this programme and to embed it in DEIS Planning in our school; across our ETB and nationally if the success we experience is replicated on larger scale.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

In essence, the group; decided to explore and question some of the targets we were using in DEIS Planning and to look to other jurisdictions to explore their approaches to tackling social exclusion in education. From this; the Proving Grounds approach was discovered and contact was made with the Director of the Programme, David Hersh. From this, a better understanding of their methodology was ascertained and plans were initiated to visit Harvard University to further explore the programme and speak to the people who were instrumental in devising it. In the interim, the Proving Grounds Approach to improving attendance was adapted to suit the local school context and a pilot project trialled which led to significant improvements in attendance. In turn, all staff; who would later attend Harvard; partook in Datawise training which helped us understand the scientific approaches to measuring data. This provided a good base with which to visit Harvard and engage in practitioner research. In turn, the group arranged a private seminar with Professor Kevin Nugent, Director of the Brazelton Institute, at Boston Children's Hospital.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

In an era where practitioner research is encouraged but one in which the time to do so is limited; I think the effort and drive of the group of staff; comprising teachers and SNAs, to engage in this vast process and at their own expense has to be commended and is deserving of recognition.

DEIS Planning approaches are well researched and embedded in Irish education. For staff members, to delve deeper into this and question the effectiveness of the same is brave and is indicative of the staff-led research that needs to permeate education circles in order for us to see improvements across the wider system. This group has taken the tentative steps to embed an internationally proven system into our school and their ultimate aim is to embed this further afield across our ETB and, when results are positive, the aim is to bring the research and benefits to a wider national scale. The group of teachers decided to look beyond the typical DEIS Planning endeavours seen in Irish education to see how we could better inform our practice.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Staff members engaging in practitioner led research, and sharing their findings, with fellow staff members has a long proven benefit in international educational research. In our setting; we have found this no different. The group have contributed to an increased awareness of DEIS and tackling educational disadvantage, which was at the heart of their original aims. All schools are striving to ensure equality of opportunity within their school environments and the first major step is starting the discourse and magnifying its reach and this group have succeeded in that. Our DEIS Planning in the school has been re-invigorated and re-focused, and many of the learnings from the internationally renowned Proving Grounds/Datawise approach are now being embedded in our DEIS sub-committees. Ultimately, what we are all striving for is enhanced opportunities for our school communities and I believe this group has created a foundation, and an approach, that will enhance practitioner research in our ETB and this is the excellence in education; the innovation that should be celebrated and become commonplace.

ETB EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

PROVISION MAPPING INITIATIVE

ETB SECTORAL GROUP
ACROSS 14 REGIONS

RUNNER UP



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Provision Mapping Initiative: A systematic, collaborative approach to inclusive and special education. An ETB/MIC national pilot implementation initiative of Provision Mapping commenced in September 2021 across 33 post primary schools in 14 ETB regions. The initiative aimed to build networked ETB regional teams of Inclusion Coaches across the ETB sector who would support implementation and development of SEN Provision Mapping over time in participating schools.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Inclusion Coaches were appointed by Directors of Schools in ETB regions and work with schools within their ETB. Inclusion Coaches work with senior leadership teams, special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) and Curriculum/ Subject Coordinators in their own schools and/ or other schools in their ETB), to develop a school Provision Map, reflecting current SEN provision given by the Department of Education to support students identified with additional and special education needs across the Continuum of Support. It supports school wide professional learning and coordinated SEN provision. Schools in the Initiative began to map the provision across the school using a school improvement exercise focused on DE approach to school improvement via Looking at our School (LAOS). The following is an example of the work and impact that the initiative had in an ETB schools. This picture is repeated in all 14 of the ETBs and 33 schools involved in the initiative.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Inclusion Coaches:

- It has brought a fresh approach to SEN Mapping and inclusion of all students in receipt of SEN allocation
- It involves many stakeholders in the decision-making process, including Mary Immaculate College

- It supports teachers' professional learning through CPD for inclusive coaches, inclusion champions etc
- Communities of Practice (COP): it promotes a COP approach in line with DE and Teaching Council Policy
- It applies a cyclical approach of review, design, and evaluation in line with DE school improvement policy (LAOS)
- It is data informed and evidence-based response to system needs

The initiative supports the ETBI Strategy Statement on:

- People (Goal 1 and Goal 2)
- Partnership (Goal 3 and Goal 4)
- Potential (Goal 5 and Goal 6)
- The initiative has been evaluated by Mary Immaculate College, a partner in the initiative.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

An Interim Evaluation of the Provision Mapping project was undertaken in June 2022 (Fitzgerald 2022), The research shows evidence of the positive impact of Provision Mapping on teacher collaborative practice in schools, and in supporting schools to develop integrated, data-informed approaches to school improvement planning. This is an evidence-based data driven model informing practice in our ETB schools.

This initiative has been followed closely as a way forward for all schools nationwide, irrespective of sector. It is expected that we will receive funding to broaden the reach of the initiative during the next school year. This project began with a group of volunteers and has set the standard for the rest of schools in how best to map SEN provision in schools within a highly significant inclusive approach. Surely there can be no other project that has impacted more positively on students with SEN, on schools, and on inclusion. It is an example of creativity and innovation in education that has improved the way schools support SEN provision so that the impact and outcomes for students are more positive and effective than ever.

ETB EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

LEADING LEARNING, TEACHING AND INCLUSION

THOMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LIMERICK & CLARE ETB

SHORTLISTED



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The Leading Learning and Teaching initiative (LLT) in Limerick and Clare ETB was created to support schools and share practice in the area of teaching, learning and inclusion. The LLT initiative supports school management and staff to lead teaching, learning and inclusion in pursuit of improved student outcomes in their schools. LLT is underpinned by a conceptual understanding of leading teaching and learning through:

- Scaffolding the SSE process
- Supporting evidence based reflective practice
- Promoting professional discussion and collaboration
- Developing the knowledge base
- Dissemination of evidence informed best practice
- The provision of support responsive to each school's unique context

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

The LLT initiative has been:

- Designing, developing and delivering relevant CPD programmes and supporting resources since 2016
- Delivering CPD, providing advice, supporting and facilitating teachers' professional development and building leadership capacity
- Advising and supporting schools in the development of SSE practices, in prioritising and setting targets and in school development planning in line with LAOS and national priorities
- Visiting schools &/or clusters of schools to engage with principals, in-school management teams, small or whole-staff groups
- Providing targeted professional development support, as required, following WSE inspections.
- Working with teachers & demonstrating exemplars of effective learning, teaching and assessment strategies, approaches and methodologies across a range of curricular areas

- Supporting the use of Digital Technologies as a tool for LLT
- Supporting school-based collaborative CPD to enable the adoption of whole-school, group and individual approaches to supporting student learning
- Support to SENCOs & ASD teachers relating to teaching of students with additional needs virtually

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

The relationship between individual teachers, their schools and colleagues across schools is necessary for professional learning and as 'professional capital' is about individual and collective knowing and doing over time, professional learning works best when it addresses and honours parts of the whole, person and group....and is supported and resourced by schools.'

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Progress continues to be made in promoting professional discussion and collaboration especially supporting joined up thinking between SENCOs, ASD Teachers and Curriculum Leaders in relation to LAOS and the SSE process. We have built a lot of trust in and between schools, knowing where their 'safe ground' is. This model has been for both the collective and the individual. We need to continue to build the capacity of leadership across the scheme.

Increased support for the SSE process in all schools and in particular the need for ongoing support in relation to DEIS planning.

We continue to support the culture of evidence based reflective practice; student reflection (AFL), teacher reflection and reflection on collaborative practice in schools.

We continue to facilitate school leaders' and teachers' participation in collaborative decision-making processes. We hope this will stimulate both collective and individual ownership in relation to school improvement, as evidenced by the research literature (e.g. Ainscow and Sandill 2010; Fullan et al 2018; Hargreaves and Fullan 2012; Lave and Wenger 1991; Netolicky 2020).

ETB EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD UDL CHAMPIONS PROJECT

KERRY ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The UDL Champions project is a first of its kind in Ireland and looks to identify how the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Framework (CAST, 2018) can be implemented across the educational journeys of all learners. It examines how UDL can be implemented at primary, post primary and FET and maps the skills development required at each stage to support the development of expert learners. This design-based research project is currently running over two academic years and brought together 28 teachers to build a community of practice to create a UDL ecosystem which maps the complex networks or interconnected systems that exist within schools/colleges/centres and between learning stakeholders to the UDL framework. We recognise all learners are different and UDL is a way to make sure that everyone can learn, no matter what their strengths are.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Our COP started in September 2021, 28 primary, post-primary and FET teachers met weekly on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Teachers timetables were freed up for one hour to facilitate their attendance and teachers also gave one hour of their own time. Teachers receive training inputs, share good practise and discuss their strategies for implementing UDL in their schools and centres. UDL is on the agenda of every school staff meeting, all monthly Kerry ETB Principals meetings. There also UDL inputs to FET management group. Each school has a teaching and learning team featuring members of the UDL COP and all schools have received training from the UDL leaders in their school. All schools have UDL teaching strategies for this year and these are aligned with school's DEIS and SIP plans. Some examples include UDL subject for 1st years, with full scheme of work, with examples across several subject areas, whole-school OneNote plans for sharing digital content with students, strategies using immersive reader (read-aloud, Translation etc), live captions, using video for learning, groupwork & other engagement strategies.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

This initiative is a first of its kind in Ireland to bring a cross-sectoral approach to the design and development of a whole of life learner experience which supports all learners to become experts in their own abilities to learn. 28 dedicated members of Kerry ETBs teaching staff joined together to create a community of practice that explored technology enhanced teaching and learning innovations. They devoted their time to sharing their expertise and practice experience. They designed and developed a collective approach to implementing UDL practice in their learning environments. Teachers are actively leading their own staff, supporting their colleagues, and leading UDL discussions on the ground. Having primary, post-primary and FET teachers meeting together is resulting in illuminating conversations that will help ensure that students progressing through the system will experience an integrated consistent approach to teaching and learning across Kerry ETB where students voices are heard at all stages of their education.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

This is the first time that Kerry ETB has led a research project and they have been involved in the design and development of the project with Jean Reale, a researcher within the school of education in Trinity College Dublin. Kerry ETB provided expert technical support through their education technology specialist Jeremy Wrenn. Taking this approach allowed the project to be supported both internally and externally. The design of the project allowed for two UDL champions to be created in each of the schools and FET centres. This approach ensures that the skills developed in the project can be used to support the wider implementation of UDL practice within Kerry ETB.

ETB EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

SHANE FALLON

SCOIL AIREAGAIL
KILKENNY & CARLOW ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Mr. Fallon has been an extremely hardworking and dedicated member of our school staff for many years. He has constantly looked to help students to the best of his ability and is always willing to listen to any issues students come to him with. He is always fair and gives everybody the same treatment across the school. He holds a positive and optimistic outlook on life, and this has transferred to the school's atmosphere throughout his years of work as vice-principal and indeed as acting principal last year. His sense of humor and lighthearted approach to teaching has made him a highly respected member of staff and you rarely hear a bad word uttered about him throughout the student community.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Mr. Fallon worked very hard to secure planning permission for a new school building which will be a far more up to date and comfortable learning environment for students compared to the outdated prefabs that students currently attend classes in. This improved building will vastly improve the conditions for students and teachers and reflects his ambition to improve the school and constantly strive for better while helping the students to enjoy their experiences in Scoil Aireagail while incorporating the students' learning.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

I believe that Mr. Fallon should win this award because of his work ethic and fairness in dealing with students. Mr. Fallon has worked very hard at improving school facilities such as planning permission for the new building. This in turn has improved the quality of education that students receive while making Scoil Aireagail a more enjoyable place to learn for students.

He encourages good working relationships between students and teachers alike and this has led to a highly positive atmosphere in the school. During the difficult years of Covid 19, he worked continuously to stay in contact with all members of the school community and ensured all members were coping with the challenges. His optimistic and positive outlook on life has made him very popular amongst students and this has made him very approachable. His strive for equality, respect and he always looks out for the wellbeing of the entire school community, and these are the primary principles for this award which is why I think he should win this award.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Mr. Fallon has given great service to our school as vice principal for many years. Through hard work and dedication he has helped students in our school achieve their full potential, which has led them to successful career paths after school. Mr. Fallon is both a leader and role model to students and teachers in our school. He has used these skills of leadership to his advantage in order to create a comfortable atmosphere in our school so that students can not just be educated but thrive. It is not just within the classroom that Mr. Fallon achieves great results as he can effectively recognize where our school can be improved and overcomes these issues with hard work and dedication as we have seen with how he has secured our new school building. He has supported more school teams in different sports which previously were not available and this has provided more students the opportunity to demonstrate their talents outside of the classroom and this has underpinned his beliefs that school is more than just about learning in the classroom and about attaining life skills and preparing the students for adult life.



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Excellence in Organisation Support and Development Award 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ORGANISATION SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT GREEN INNOVATION

GRETB HEAD OFFICE & CLARIN COLLEGE,
ATHENRY
GALWAY & ROSCOMMON ETB



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

WINNER

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Hilary Molloy is the procurement manager for GRETB and her forward thinking has provided GRETB with an amazing opportunity to engage different sections of GRETB to work together to achieve real rewards in relation to Green Procurement initiatives. We believe Clarin College, Athenry is the first school in Ireland to liaise with a tendered waste management provider to reuse food waste as compost in their school green areas and pitches.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

On a recent GRETB procurement tender competition for waste management. The winning tenderer was requested to provide a "green initiative" under the award criteria Environmental Management. This is part of the All of Government Plan on Climate Action 2019 giving regard to Circular 20-2019, where all Government Departments are to seek reductions in their environmental impact when procuring goods and services. The winning tenderer had to demonstrate how they will include project specific innovative techniques, environmental or sustainable initiatives and any added value they can bring to the delivery of their services in line with climate change objectives.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

The winning tenderer collects all food waste generated within GRETB and processes it in their compost facility. This facility has an outstanding compliance record with both the EPA and Department of Agriculture Fisheries and the Marine. Its purpose is to displace chemical fertiliser to produce food. This process reduces the production of greenhouse gases significantly, as the distance travelled from the collection point to the ultimate reused point is a small fraction of the distance required to dispose of food waste or indeed to deliver it to an anaerobic digestion facility and not to mention the saving when compared to disposal to landfill. GRETB used this as an opportunity to use this compost on green areas and playing fields in Clarin College, Athenry. This composting and reuse of food waste is an excellent example of illustrating the Circular Economy principal.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

GRETB met with Barna Waste representatives. We discussed this very innovative initiative by Barna Waste and determined it would be an excellent way of achieving many GRETB goals. Clarin College were very excited to be the first school (we believe in the country) to be included in this project.

PHASE 1:

Barna Waste provided a sample of fully certified compliant compost per EPA and Dept regulations.

Clarin College in agreement with Barna Waste scheduled timeframes when further larger trucks of compost would be delivered suitable to the green area requirements and pitch availability. Students to participate and assist in the distribution of the compost and understanding the green initiative project. Generate an awareness of Green Circular Economy Principals.

PHASE 2:

Barna Waste and Clarin College to continue to determine with compost delivery timescales.

Students are working on achieving a green flag for the school. Agriculture Science are encouraged to record and document this project for research - identifying benefits to soil with specific measurements recorded. This information can be used to formulate further projects.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ORGANISATION SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

MYCETB

CORK ETB



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

RUNNER UP

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The introduction of "MyCETB", an internal communications platform powered by Workvivo. This digital platform, to which all employees have access, replaced a more traditional, static intranet site. It enables the organisation to communicate key messages and critical information, support the sharing of resources and ideas across the organisation, and promote employee engagement, collaboration and interaction. In doing so, it empowers the organisation to foster a Cork ETB culture and identity.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

MyCETB provides a variety of tools and functionality which assist in creating an efficient flow of information within the organisation, empower employees to collaborate and share resources and foster a sense of community. These include:

- Dedicated "spaces" set up for individual schools, centres and services, as well as organisation wide spaces which are of benefit to all or certain groups of staff, e.g. Professional Learning and Development, Teaching and Learning, Corporate Sustainability.
- An organisational wide activity feed in which all staff members can share activities, achievements and information.
- A document repository where staff can access policies, procedures and other essential documentation
- A central "app" repository where staff can locate and log into systems and applications that they use daily.
- Push notifications which issue to all staff when essential updates are published.
- News stories relating to Cork ETB initiatives and links to our external facing social media on the employee landing page.

In addition, the platform operates bilingually and is available to staff in both Irish and English.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

The introduction of the MyCETB platform demonstrates an innovative and imaginative approach to internal communications that is unique in the ETB sector. The project was implemented by a cross-functional team drawing from IT, Corporate Services and Human Resources departments within Cork ETB's head office function, which proved an extremely successful approach in delivering the launch and has since been utilised on a number of other projects. The project also involved a wider team of "MyCETB Champions" across the organisation within all schools, centres and services, who were responsible for promoting engagement at local level, as well as creating content for the platform. This collegial and inclusive approach has been a key factor in its success.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The introduction of the MyCETB platform in 2020 has provided an extremely valuable asset in improving our internal communications and building a sense of Cork ETB identity. Cork ETB has approximately 3500 staff members, employed across a large number of geographically dispersed locations. The ability to connect with staff in other locations, and to collaborate and share resources was particularly valuable during the period of the pandemic and has subsequently led to the development of successful cross-location communities, e.g. in the area of corporate sustainability. It has also provided employees with an attractive and easy to use interface through which they can see the great work underway and celebrate achievements of learners and colleagues in other parts of the organisation. These factors have assisted in developing a stronger sense of a Cork ETB identity and community. In addition, MyCETB has also facilitated direct communication with all employees in relation to essential information, e.g. critical HR updates, and ensured that employees are kept up to date with organisation level initiatives and achievements.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ORGANISATION SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

TEAM WELLBEING GRETB

ATHENRY HQ
GALWAY & ROSCOMMON ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

GRETB were the first ETB to be awarded the KeepWell mark accreditation by IBEC. Team wellbeing was established in November 2019 in Athenry HQ to support wellbeing across GRETB. A pilot project ensued and there were several initiatives kicked off with "Wellbeing Week" and the team were responsible for successfully achieving the evidence-based accreditation in workplace wellbeing.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Several initiatives were introduced for example Zumba classes, Talks on mental health wellbeing from Mental Health Ireland, Morning Guided Meditations, GRETB Steps Challenge, Workshop on Eating for a healthy Heart from Croí, Bridge lessons, Yoga.

There have been many online events also.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

This group through COVID managed to achieve the IBEC accreditation which was a super achievement as online was a challenge. The accreditation was a rather extensive audit of how we manage wellbeing in GRETB. We were assessed under 8 key areas: Leadership, Mental Health, Health and Safety, Smoke Free, Absence Management, Intoxicants, Health Eating and Physical Activity. The assessment took place remotely due to COVID and many staff and managers were interviewed as part of the process.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

This group have helped raise the profile of wellbeing and wellness in HQ and our sub office (OSD). The accreditation has national recognition and staff in GRETB are proud of their achievement. We received a comprehensive post assessment report outlining how well we do in all 8 areas and also some small suggestions for improvement.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ORGANISATION SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

DOREEN RYAN

KCETB HQ

KILKENNY & CARLOW ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Doreen Ryan is a warm, friendly and empathetic person who is loved and appreciated by generations of staff across all areas of KCETB. Doreen is patient and understanding with a genuine interest in people and facilitating their wellbeing. She is always willing to give her own time to listen and offer advice and counsel. Doreen is a trusted confidante and friend for people of all disciplines and locations through KCETB. She provides support and comfort to people at a vulnerable and sensitive time. She provides a very personal service in a professional working environment. She goes beyond all reasonable expectations to ensure staff feel respected and valued as they move into retirement. Doreen combines friendliness, care and respect with a wisdom which is appreciated by all her colleagues.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Doreen has delivered an amazing volume of high-quality work in her 45 years of endeavour with Carlow VEC and KCETB. Her dedication, competence and caring nature has delivered a tremendous record of achievement. Doreen commenced service in December 1977 in the Finance Section specializing in Payroll and Accounts. She worked on the County Scheme for Schools and the College Scheme for the Regional Technical College which is now SETU. She recalls the importance of accuracy and precision in the manual calculation of payroll. She liaised directly with Principals in the days before the advent of school secretaries. Following a ten-year sojourn in HR and IR, Doreen returned to her spiritual home of figures, payroll and pensions over 15 years ago. She has focused on providing, developing and enhancing the pensions service for the past four years. Doreen has ensured that staff retire feeling confident and appreciated. They retire knowing that they will receive all their pension entitlements and, more importantly, knowing that they are valued as employees and colleagues.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Doreen Ryan is the ultimate caring public servant who always puts the customer first. She has contributed an immense amount during an incredible 45 plus years career working with Carlow VEC and Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board. Doreen has been a one person tour de force creating a top-class pensions and payroll service which emphasizes excellent service to the customer. This service has a caring ethos allied to the highest-level of competence and professionalism. The care, consideration and kindness which she has created in her portfolio has had a profound effect on the wider organization leading to a culture where the customer is always number one. Doreen has had a significant influence on the development of both pension and payroll services in a caring, positive fashion. She has been incredibly generous in giving her time to train staff and retained life-long friendships with many current and past staff-members. Internal customers including staff and board members, in addition to organizational customers including students and learners, have all benefitted from Doreen's care and attention.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Doreen has single-handedly facilitated the development of a caring and empathetic culture in KCETB. Her customer-focused approach is an inspiration to all acknowledged as a template for all staff. Staff receive a kind and caring response from Doreen who gives them time, attention and consideration and ensures they leave happy. Doreen offers enthusiasm, friendliness, dedication, respect, confidentiality and emotional empathy. Everyone trusts Doreen and know she will always serve their best interests. Doreen deals with some of the most difficult and sensitive issues in the workplace. She has a special gift in treating bereaved people with sensitivity, empathy, respect and confidentiality. Her contribution to vulnerable people is unparalleled. Doreen's impact goes well beyond the competent professional service she provides as Pensions Officer. She has developed the feelgood factor which makes the workplace a positive working environment. She created this environment in her own work area, and it has premeditated HQ and the wider organization. Doreen is a one-person institution within an organization.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ORGANISATION SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY INCLUSION (EDI) ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVE

CMETB OSD
CAVAN & MONAGHAN ETB



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) & Accessibility Initiative was initiated in the summer of 2022 by CMETB Compliance and CMETB Communication departments under the OSD Directorate. The aim of the initiative was to comply with Equality and Human Rights Public Sector Duty obligations and EU Directive on Web Accessibility, but the project team also saw an opportunity to enhance awareness among ETB staff of equality and accessibility to CMETB services. This initiative is underpinned by the core value of equality but also values of care, respect & community. As a public organisation, equality and inclusion are key considerations which allow CMETB to deliver a quality and meaningful service in a diverse society.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Examples of work under CMETB's EDI and Accessibility Initiative include:

- Implementation of the CMETB Public Sector Duty Action Plan including the rollout of the equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives throughout CMETB
- Development and implementation of accessible templates in Word and PowerPoint, as well as accessibility guidelines and style guidelines for using Plain English in documentation including letters, presentations and advertisements.
- Creation of a SharePoint hub for CMETB staff to access resources such as accessible templates and guides, including logos and pictures with detailed alternative text pre-inserted.
- Training for Administrative staff on the Public Sector Duty and Accessibility
- Deaf Awareness training with Irish Deaf Society for staff who interact with the public.
- Implementation of Irish Sign Language Interpreter Protocol at the administrative and school level.
- Completion of audit on CMETB website to improve digital accessibility of information and documents for service users and staff, including colour contrast, structure of website and accessibility of documents with assistive technologies.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Demonstrates commitment to CMETB values & creating more awareness about accessibility, inclusion and equality within the organisation. Demonstrating the importance of accessibility throughout the organisation making service users feel that they can have a positive interaction with CMETB which can reduce the barriers to education. Demonstration commitment to equality and inclusion in meeting the needs of the communities that we serve. Showing our communities that CMETB is taking positive steps to provide equality of opportunity in education and training by improving our access to information digitally as well as in physical documentation. This initiative allowed ETB staff to consider the diverse society we live in & how small changes to their work can make a huge impact to creating a more accessible service to all stakeholders. The actions from this initiative have fostered improved user experience & positioned CMETB as a more accessible brand for service users. It demonstrates CMETB's openness to continuous improvement and openness to receiving feedback from the public on how to improve its services.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The initiative has given staff confidence in promoting accessibility through their work and in communicating with members of the public that may require Irish Sign Language Interpretation, breaking down the barriers between the administration function and the members of the public who request information or guidance. A positive impact on CMETB staff in terms of upskilling and embedding a culture that promotes accessibility to information and CMETB services for all, including people with low literacy, people who use assistive technologies or people with sight / hearing difficulties. The Initiative has allowed CMETB to promote and embed the Public Sector Duty across the organisation and to make staff aware of its goals and implementation. The audit of digital accessibility of the CMETB has allowed us to improve access to information for users of the website and make CMETB aware of the importance of digital accessibility. The outcome of the initiative allowed for greater understanding of equality and accessibility among ETB staff, provided resources & support to aid the work of the administrative staff.



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Excellence in Youth Services Award 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

ACT GATEWAY YOUTH PROJECT

ATHLONE
LONGFORD & WESTMEATH ETB

WINNER



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

The ACT Gateway Youth Project is a targeted youth project working with young people aged 10 to 24 in the Athlone area, with particular emphasis on young people living in Direct Provision, young foreign nationals living in Athlone and young people not in education, training or employment.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

The project recently awarded Gaisce Bronze medals to 5 young people who live in Direct Provision in Athlone. These young people were presented with their awards by the Mayor of Athlone and serve as a great example to the young people in their community. The Project's hugely successful collaboration with New Horizons (a community group working with international protection applicants in Athlone since 2000) and Galway Community Circus culminated with a public performance on June 19th in Athlone Civic Square. 19 young people from Athlone Accommodation Centre attended weekly sessions between Athlone and Galway, while 37 young people took part in Sunday circus activities in June. This creative and imaginative project was an outstanding success and also formed the basis for the Gateway Project's Gaisce group this year. This project had a big involvement in 2022 in Bikes for Ukraine where bikes were donated from the local community. The young people helped repair those bikes to roadworthiness and the bikes were then given to recently arrived Ukrainian refugees to help them settle into the local area.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

With one paid youth worker and a small, dedicated team of volunteers the Gateway Project worked particularly hard in recent years in response to the crises of COVID and the war in Ukraine to give young people a safe space to engage in positive social activities with their peers, receive educational support, work on personal development, feel part of their community, gain new skills and have fun.

In 2022 they engaged with 128 young people, supporting approximately 40 individual young people every month. It cooperates closely with Refugee and Asylum Seeker Groups, Education Welfare Officers, Barnardos, local DEIS schools, TUSLA, LWETB services and other youth orientated organisations.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Weekly the Gateway Project in Athlone reports examples of progression and positive impacts in the lives of the young people and the communities it works with. As well as developing social and personal skills in young people through a range of quality youth work programmes, particularly at risk young people are also offered educational supports such as a daily after school support hub and an Alternative Suspension Programme.

In 2022, the project provided intensive support to 11 young people who completed the Leaving Cert, and all progressed to further education and training or employment.

The impact of this group in the lives of the young people and community it serves far outweighs its size and resources. Thanks to its creative, innovative and needs led responses, some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people; including those living in direct provision, are not only surviving but thriving and progressing in their educational journey.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

NO SHAME MENTAL HEALTH BOARD GAME

INVOLVE YOUTH PROJECT MEATH
LOUTH & MEATH ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

RUNNER UP

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

I am nominating Involve Youth Project Meath for the work they do in Trim & Navan for young people (YP) from the Traveller community. They runs 20+ groups a week with activities including health & wellbeing, cooking, baking, STEAM, European Youth Exchanges, mental health and many more. The initiative we're nominating is the No Shame Game. The No Shame campaign was designed by the YP to start conversations around mental health- specifically Traveller Mental health as Travellers are 7 times more likely to die by suicide than the wider population. Shame kept coming up. When a yp mentioned "There should be No Shame" - the campaign began. The No Shame Game is a mental health board game designed by yp for yp. It involves discussing emotions, positive affirmations and developing coping skills. They launched the game in 2022.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Between 2017-2020 the group held a youth conference on mental health, which began the No Shame Campaign. Following this they designed posters & merchandise & launched a mental health social media video. In 2021, when covid allowed the young people met in the Trim project to design and develop the game from start to finish. They came up with how you win, challenges, card packs, the design etc. They spent 2 days designing the game from start to finish. Then the youth workers sent off the designs & card packs to a graphic designer and then to the manufacturing company Ludo Cards in Italy. The game arrived in May & we got a giant game (7mx7m) to use as part of the Youth Exchange in July. In August 5 yp came to Center Parcs for a leadership training & to become mental health ambassadors. Then between September-December 2022 the YP facilitated workshops in schools & youth projects in Meath with the game. They won an award for the game in July 2022. The game was officially in November.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

I think group & initiative should win this award due to outstanding work, time & effort they have put in to develop this campaign. They are one of the first group of young people in Ireland to design a board game by young people for young people. They have developed a very important tool to allow the conversations around mental health to happen as well as making it enjoyable for young people. As members from the Traveller community they have highlighted the huge stigma associated with mental health within that community and have been part of mental health events & conferences demonstrating the game & overall campaign. The young people who engaged in the Leadership training in Centre Parcs and who became mental health ambassadors from this have also been great role models to other Travellers & young people by going into the schools & youth projects as a mental health ambassadors & showing the game to these groups and being open to having conversations around mental health which can be difficult.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

This initiative has had a huge impact on the Traveller community. It has raised awareness of the challenges Travellers face with mental health as Travellers are 7 times more likely to die by suicide Travellers also associate the word Shame with mental health issues so this campaign challenged this. It has created spaces and opportunities where Travellers from all age groups, as well as people from other ethnic minorities or disadvantaged backgrounds have found a new way to have this conversation around mental health. The young people have also gained confidence & new skills from engaging in this project. They also feel more valued more within the schools & youth centre as there voices are being heard at a higher level. Members of the Traveller community are often in media for negative reasons. This campaign & initiative however has created positive media coverage & has been in various newspapers & on RTE news. The project began as a small scale project as has flourished to something much bigger than originally anticipated. The next step is that the yp want to create their own mental health podcast.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

PLANET YOUTH CAVAN MONAGHAN

CAVAN AND MONAGHAN ETB

SHORTLISTED



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Planet Youth is an evidence-based primary prevention model, developed in Iceland by Reykjavik University. The model uses a whole population approach and offers the opportunity to improve health and life outcomes for young people in many areas. This five-year programme has been initiated and developed by an Implementation Committee led by CMETB Youth Services, made up of representatives who have a remit for children and young people and is a research collaboration with RCSI Beaumont Hospital. Some 2,000 post Junior-Cycle students across every second-level school and Youth reach Centre throughout Cavan and Monaghan were invited to participate in the Planet Youth survey and the results contained within these county reports are the first of their kind in both counties and will be used to shape local policies in the future.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

The model is underpinned by the data derived from the PY questionnaire. This comprehensive lifestyle questionnaire was administered to the 15-16 year olds in Cavan & Monaghan and it examined a great many aspects of their lives. There are questions on their substance use, health, mental health, physical activity, family and school experience, internet use, bullying, and many other categories. The data returned from the survey is used to inform the development of suitable interventions in the community that will help address the known risk and protective factors for young. For example, a recommendation from the data was to increase the range and access to leisure time activities for young people in the local area. From this the PY Leisure Time initiative was formed, which is an action that will ensure increased leisure time opportunities are made available to young people (12 - 18 years), outside of formal school hours across Cavan & Monaghan. This programme is delivered in safe and protective space (use of School Facilities), by a Panel of Providers who deliver Sports Programmes, Dance, Art, Drama, Youth Work Sessions etc.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Planet Youth Cavan Monaghan should win the award as it is a new way of working, a new model, whereby you are asking everybody to come to the table and to invest in a model which has our young people's voices at the center of the approach. It integrates researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and community members into a unified team dedicated to solving complex, local issues. Our partners, in the first instance, look through their own organisational lens to identify how they, within their own organisation can come to the table with solutions to reduce the risk factors but are then also better informed to sit down on a collaborative basis with all other agencies to identify how they can collaborate to reduce factors that are outside their own organisational remit.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The Planet Youth Project is an ambitious collaborative Health and Wellbeing Programme that aims to deliver initiatives that will improve outcomes for young people as a direct response to young peoples data and concerns derived through the PY Youth Surveys. The Impact of the Increased Leisure Time Initiative will generate many positives:- It will increase leisure time opportunities for young people, it will provide additional programmes for young people to participate with their friends in safe, structure and healthy spaces, it will foster relationships between current providers and young people, it will support the signposting of young people to other programmes running in the community, it will inform young people, their families and their parents on what other programmes are available in their communities, it will increase movement among young people and increase their participation in activities such as sport, dance, teams sports, group work. It will also act as a catalyst to ensure young people return to participate in programmes and activities post covid.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

FUTURE FILM MAKERS 2022

LOCAL CREATIVE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP LIMERICK & CLARE ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

We are nominating Future Film Makers 2022, a group of ten young people who produced a film, BREAKING BARRIERS, as part of a training programme delivered by Limerick and Clare Local Creative Youth Partnership in November/December 2022. The film which was created to highlight a very excellent, volunteer-led youth sports programme, is a valuable promotional tool for the youth initiative at the heart of the story and also shows the talents and commitment of the young people involved in creating the film.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Below are three films created by the ten Future Film Makers trainees. Each film demonstrates a different aspect of the group's integrity in their approach to the work.

Video 1: BREAKING BARRIERS

This short film highlights some of the most positive aspects of youth work, particularly in volunteer led programmes. The spirit of this film reflects the spirit of the team who produced it. <https://vimeo.com/785815381> Password: redpaw

Video 2: FUTURE FILM MAKERS

This behind the scenes film shows the making of BREAKING BARRIERS and gives an insight to the character of some of the young trainee producers. <https://vimeo.com/785810748> Password: redpaw

Video 3: MY ABBEYFEALE

This film was made by four teenage girls from Abbeyfeale who were helped in their endeavors by members of the Future Film Makers crew. <https://vimeo.com/785804833> Password: redpaw

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

The collective spirit of goodwill, team work and empathy are the striking characteristics that made this group of young people stand out for all of the adult facilitators working on Future Film Makers 2022. Each of the ten young participants came from a different part of Limerick and, while four of them knew each other from Youthreach, none of them had worked together in the past on a voluntary youth project such as this. Following two days of training, the shooting of BREAKING BARRIERS began in The Factory, a dedicated sports space run by Limerick Youth Service. The ten trainees threw themselves entirely into the work at hand, moving props, organising interviews and following the instructions of their facilitators. The dynamic within the group, from the very first moments of meeting, was electric and created an incredibly positive atmosphere that also allowed for safety and support. Within a very short space of time of meeting, this group of young people - aged between 16 and 20, were openly supportive of each other in their work and in conversation about different aspects of their lives. They were a joy to work with.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The group, as a collective, had a lasting impact on all of their tutors. Watching a positive group dynamic evolve is rare and this one was truly magical. The collective energy was down to the individual contribution of each member of the group who simply did the work at hand. Nobody complained about anything; rather, some members of the group repeated how grateful they were for the opportunity at hand and how they would love to continue to remain in contact with each other - which they have done as friends. The LCYP is about to bring the group together again in February 2023 for a review of the project and to ask if any member has suggestions for how Future Film Makers might run in 2023. The impact the group had on each other as individuals was inspiring to see. The adult facilitators, while always at hand, needed to do little to ensure that the project was fully inclusive as group members themselves did this.

Finally, the work produced by Future Film Makers 2023 is a fine documentary that showcases some of the best youth work and youth participation in Limerick. The spirit of the film reflects that of the film makers.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

GERRY MCCARTHY

CITY OF DUBLIN YOUTH SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF DUBLIN ETB



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

Since 1998, Gerry McCarthy has been the Youth Service Manager of Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS), an organisation that provides services including educational and recreational activities for young people aged 10-24. Gerry is due to retire in May 2023 after 38 years of dedication: he has been at the forefront of youth work in the area and played an instrumental role in the formation and development of BYB. In 1985, Gerry established the Ballyfermot Youth Federation (precursor to BYB) with the aim of supporting young people in reaching their potential and challenging mind sets. He sourced funding to resource the upgrade of a premises, and opened the first centre. It brought together existing smaller youth clubs to create significant community infrastructure relating to youth work. Gerry's tenacity and enthusiasm were central to its success.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

Gerry has built a diverse range of youth services, recognising the importance of involving young people in positive and social activities that foster the development of core life skills. In 2005, he opened the Ballyfermot Adventure Centre in Park West, Dublin Gerry raised €200,000 to establish the Oakwood Centre in Co. Wicklow that offers residential visits and outdoor pursuits. He was instrumental in developing the Gurteen Youth Centre in Ballyfermot and the Skate Park, playground and youth and leisure facilities in Le Fanu Park that opened in 2020. Working with Léargas, Gerry coordinates exchange programmes that provide unparalleled opportunities for 200 local young people to travel to other EU countries and gain invaluable life experiences, while also reciprocating. In 2007, Gerry founded the Ballyfermot Community Festival to celebrate community and to counteract negative perceptions of the area. Gerry fosters inclusivity and equality: he has been at the forefront of local pride festivals and recently arranged for 39 LGBTQ+ young people from Europe to visit Ballyfermot for 8 days of work and engagement with local LGBTQ+ people.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

Gerry has been intrinsic to the development of youth services and the advancement of young people from social disadvantaged backgrounds for decades. He has made an unmatched contribution and is universally respected in the local, national and international sphere. His involvement in BYB since its inception demonstrates his unwavering and selfless commitment to supporting local young people and empowering them to make positive decisions around their life choices. Gerry identified myriad ways in which to engage targeted groups and built a diverse range of youth services that provide appropriate social, personal and development goals. Gerry has continued to innovate and adapt; he recognises and responds to shifting local needs, and continues to create new opportunities and avail of government and EU initiatives. He has been instrumental in assisting vulnerable people from outside Ireland to become part of their new community; he is committed to equality and inclusion. Gerry has made a wonderful contribution to the development of young people in Ballyfermot; his priority has been, and will continue to be, improving lives.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

Gerry's initiatives, dedication, and compassion have been transformative for countless young people and families in Ballyfermot, colleagues and peers. He is a mentor and a role model who has had a direct positive impact on people's lives: one teenager on placement stated that their time at BYB was the best two weeks of their life. Gerry's influence transcends one individual; it has a generational impact. By helping to identify and nurture individuals' unique talents, Gerry encourages young people to grow their self-confidence, develop their skills, and gain employment. He gives them the tools and the resolve to move beyond their possibly difficult world and encourages them to change their preconceptions about what they can or cannot do. The prevalence of youth workers who came from targeted groups is testament to Gerry's impact, as is the presence of local people in the Gardaí who came from BYB. Gerry's dedication to equality and responsiveness to changing local needs influences his colleagues too. As a community leader, Gerry's vision, enthusiasm, and commitment has brought about tangible positive changes to people's lives.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATORS GROUP

WICKLOW YOUTHREACH
KILDARE & WICKLOW ETB



#ETB DAY
2nd March 2023

SHORTLISTED

Describe the person / group / initiative you are nominating.

We are nominating a group of 10 students (male & female) from Wicklow Youthreach aged between 15-20 years.

Give examples of the work of the person / group / initiative that show why they are deserving of this award.

They took on an existing project where during the pandemic we provided personalised Christmas Care Boxes to Blainroe Nursing Home to reward the front-line workers and also spread some Christmas cheer to the residents.

The following year we wanted to continue this project and we re-named it 'Carry on Caring'. We reached out to local direct provisions centres and our project was very well received by Rathmore Holiday Village in Ashford. The students sent out personalised Christmas Boxes to all the residents and from there we got talking to residents. The students identified that transport was proving to be a major problem as the accommodation was very remote and the residents were really cut off from local amenities.

The students came up with the idea of upcycling bicycles and providing them to the residents. They fundraised by organising a Craft Fair and made all the items themselves from crochet and knitted items to birdboxes and pens. It was a huge success and they were put forward to present their ideas to a YSI mock-up of the 'Dragons Den' where they were awarded more funds along with mentorship to go towards their project.

Tell us why you think this person / group / initiative should win this award.

The students are continuing the project again this year by once again reaching out to Rathmore. We had a Christmas Coffee morning where the students organised a bus to pickup around 40 parents and children. We had received a wish list from all the residents and from our remaining funds we were able to provide each family with sacks full of toys and clothes. We held a nearly new clothes shop where all items were free but displayed like a shop floor and beautifully gift-wrapped by the students at the checkout. We received many donations of brand-new clothes, accessories, and toiletries. We got talking once again to the residents and asked how we could continue helping. One thing we were told that would be amazing would be workshops for the children so they could get a chance to develop and explore talents whether in dance, drama, or sports. The accommodation might be temporary for some so day-long workshops would give them a huge chance.

Describe the impact this person / group / initiative has had.

The students of Wicklow Youthreach were announced as the winners of the Young Social Innovators Making Our World Fair and Just Award and the Global Citizens Award for this amazing project. This project is totally student-driven. Their enthusiasm and passion are inspirational. We're delighted to have linked back in with Rathmore. We have built up a great relationship with the staff and the residents and we hope through this we can take our project to another level in 2023.

When asked what they felt was the biggest achievement of their project the overwhelming consensus was the difference the team felt they made to the residents of Rathmore and addressing a very real issue that many of them were facing and supporting people in their community.



photos to Marc O'Sullivan



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB Creative Multimedia Competition 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

HENRY NCUBE

DUNAMASE COLLEGE
LAOIS & OFFALY ETB

WINNER



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

Excellent video showcasing the core values in Dunamase College. Includes a voice over of a poem containing the core values. Submitted by LOETB on behalf of Henry and the school Ethos Team Leader, Lauren Harding.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

MIA HUGHES

CAVAN INSTITUTE
CAVAN & MONAGHAN ETB

RUNNER UP



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

Large Acrylic painting 8ft by 6ft on a wooden board, I created this piece in studio as part of an assignment during my time in Cavan institute studying the level 5 Art craft and design course. the painting represents the small steps I've taken by doing a level 5 to progress into 3rd level it shows the close up of someone walking up the stairs indicating to take education in small steps and one step at a time. I hope you enjoy.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

STEPHEN WHITE

COLAISTE DHULAIGH
CITY OF DUBLIN ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

A one-minute video with a poem voiceover about the college.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

HEATHER WATSON

SPIDDAL MEDIA CENTRE
GALWAY & ROSCOMMON ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

This is a short video showing the diversity and talent that a group of trainees displayed when asked to make a minute long video about the training center and it's ethos. Seven students worked on this, Heather Watson, Sam Acheson, Alan Mulconry, Anna-Elizabet Chubrikova, Antoine Curran, Diana Kovikaand Sara Barbara Sulej.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

NICOLA JANDA

DAVITT COLLEGE, CASTLEBAR
MAYO, SLIGO & LEITRIM ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

Nicola Janda is a second year student whose 3D poster is hand-painted and it depicts the inclusive, equal, respectful and caring atmosphere of Davitt College

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

VTOS CORE STUDENTS 2022

WATERFORD COLLEGE OF FURTHER
EDUCATION
WATERFORD & WEXFORD ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

This is a collaboration video made by VTOS Core students to promote the VTOS Programmes for Core and Dispersed Students at Waterford College of Further Education. The theme 'The best things in life are free' was developed via a series of collaborative meetings with students who wanted to relay the message that VTOS offers free courses to eligible applicants and that there are progression opportunities to PLC as VTOS Dispersed students. The video showcases many departments across Waterford College of Further Education and promotes VTOS as a gateway to accessing Further Education. The video was shot by Romano Jasarov and original music was provided by Aquilas Ndambu. Students from Core VTOS feature in many sections of the Video and PLC students are included in Department Shots throughout.



#ETBAY
2nd March 2023

Celebrating 10 years of
Education and Training Boards

ETB National Staff Competition 2023



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

SHARON FIELDS-LOCKWOOD

BALDOYLE TRAINING CENTRE
DUBLIN & DÚN LAOGHAIRE ETB

WINNER



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

A short video comprising of a poem I wrote and some images representing my 30 year FET journey.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

GAVIN LOWNDES

BLANCHARDSTOWN COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE
DUBLIN & DÚN LAOGHAIRE ETB

RUNNER UP



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

This video promotes the Blanchardstown Community Training Centre and the four different courses we offer that are, digital media, catering, beauty and sports. Ryan, Connor and Dima from the Digital Media class spent the past few days filming and editing the video, and Adam narrated the promo video. The video visual demonstrates the variety of modules and coursework that are covered and what a day in BCTC might look like. The narration talks about the benefits and opportunities of our centre.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

NESSA GRIFFIN-HESLIN

LONGFORD COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION/TEMPLEMICHAEL COLLEGE
LONGFORD & WESTMEATH ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

We are so proud of our PLC College and everything our learners & staff have achieved. The video encapsulates the essence of Longford College of Further Education, part of LWETB. It is a celebration of the diverse array of people we work with, a tribute to all our wonderful learners past & present and a thank you to the local community we are linked with.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR YOUTH SERVICES

SHANNON CASSELLS

SLIGO TRAINING CENTRE
MAYO, SLIGO & LEITRIM ETB

SHORTLISTED



Describe the submission briefly, including those involved in the entry if more than one person.

For this video, we showcased what it means to be part of the team at MSLETB Training Centre! We've asked some of our staff members from Sligo and Ballina to share their experiences and perspectives on working here. Meet Martin, Terry, Melissa, Stephen, Katelyn, Katie, Sarah, Darragh, and Sean!



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