

LEADERSHIP MISSION 2018

Special Report



Baroness May Blood, Principal Bill Fletcher, and a Cliftonville student accept a grant from Partnership Chairman Michael Clune for Cliftonville Integrated Primary School in Belfast

Partnership Gives \$170,000 to Ireland, North & South

The Irish American Partnership disbursed \$170,000 to education and community programs in Ireland, North and South, during its biennial Leadership Mission held from September 24th to 26th, 2018.

The programs were selected for their transformative impact on students, schools, and communities across the island of Ireland. The grants further the Partnership's priority campaigns: direct grants to schools, science education, university access, job training, and community development.

The Leadership Mission evaluates the Partnership's programs in Ireland and gives members a glimpse into the valuable work conducted by the funded schools, universities, and community centers each day. The

trip was split between Dublin and Belfast, exposing participants to the Partnership's work in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In total, the Partnership disbursed \$120,000 to education and community development programs in the Republic of Ireland and \$55,000 to education and cross-community initiatives in Northern Ireland.

These grants would not be possible without the gracious support of the Partnership's many members, whose generosity paves the way for a peaceful and prosperous future for Ireland, North and South. Read more about the impact these grants have on schools and community organizations on pages 2-4.

Leadership Mission Grants

The Partnership disbursed the following grants during the Leadership Mission:

RDS: \$20,000

Primary School Science Fairs

Dublin City University (DCU): \$30,000

University Access Scholarships & Western Seaboard Science Program

Focusing on IT (FIT): \$10,000

Job Training in IT

Mallow Development Partnership: \$5,000

Mallow Maths & Science Family Fair

Mary Immaculate College: \$10,000

Science Teacher Training

Trinity College Dublin: \$10,000

University Access Scholarships

Integrated Education Fund: \$10,000

Grant to Cliftonville Integrated School

174 Trust: \$5,000

Cross-Community Programs

Youth Link: \$10,000

University Scholarships for Youth Work

Ulster University: \$10,000

University Access Scholarships

Queen's University: \$10,000

Widening Participation Program

Holy Rosary Primary School: \$5,000 &

Botanic Primary School: \$5,000

Shared Education Program

Convent Primary School: \$2,500

Direct Grants to Schools

Dromore National School: \$2,500

Direct Grants to Schools

Thomond Community College: \$25,000

Greaney Family Scholarship

Total: \$170,000

UNIVERSITY ACCESS SCHOLARSHIPS

In an effort to make third level education affordable for all, the Partnership gave \$40,000 to university access programs at Dublin City University, Trinity College, Ulster University, and Queen’s University. Access scholarships target historically underrepresented student populations, guaranteeing that modern Irish universities have a student body that is as richly diverse as the country itself. Most access scholarship recipients would not be able to attend college without financial support, so the grants are crucial in ensuring equal opportunity for all Irish students to receive a college education.



The Partnership’s annual grant to Trinity’s Access Program supports 3 students annually



The Partnership supports 6 Dublin City University (DCU) students each year through their Access Program



The Partnership funds work and study travel grants for disadvantaged students through the Queen’s University Widening Participation Program



The Partnership supports Ulster University’s Gateway Scholarships and travel bursaries, which ease the financial burden of a university degree

JOB TRAINING



To address Ireland’s structural unemployment problem, the Partnership presented its annual grant of \$10,000 to Focusing on IT (FIT). Founded by former bricklayer Peter Davitt, who witnessed first-hand the decline of tradition blue collar employment, FIT has been one of Ireland’s most innovative job training programs. Its core mission is to promote an inclusive “Smart Economy” for people at risk in Ireland’s labor market. This year, the Partnership sponsored FIT’s 2018 technology skills audit, which identified the core competencies demanded by technology companies operating in Ireland. FIT will use this knowledge to tailor its training programs, ensuring that its trainees emerge fully prepared to excel in the current job market.

SCIENCE EDUCATION



RDS Primary Science Fairs & Munster Maths & Science Family Fair

The RDS Primary Science Fairs and Munster Maths and Science Family Fair are incredibly effective in cultivating interest in STEM at a formative age, bolstering teacher confidence and encouraging families to engage with their students' education. These non-competitive fairs showcase local student projects as well as professional applications of STEM in the community, bringing together students, parents, and community members to cultivate an interest in science and math learning.



Western Seaboard Science Program at DCU

The Partnership annually funds a continuing professional development (CPD) program in science teaching, administered by Dublin City University's St. Patrick's Teaching College. The CPD program was borne of a 2004 study undertaken by the Partnership and the Irish government, which identified that a lack of confidence and knowledge was impeding science education. Since 2004, the Partnership has provided CPD in science to teachers at 80 schools in Kerry, Kilkenny, Mayo, and Clare.



Continuing Professional Development at Mary Immaculate

The Partnership began working with Dr. Maeve Liston at Mary Immaculate College in 2011. Dr. Liston is a staunch advocate of science education and has played a vital role in increasing the number of science courses that undergraduate teaching students are required to take. At Mary Immaculate in Limerick, she hosts Science Week for local primary students to visit the campus and participate in a series of hands-on science lessons. Dr. Liston also provides CPD in science teaching to schools in the Munster area.

DIRECT GRANTS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Partnership presented grants to two primary schools, Convent Primary School in Killaloe, County Clare, and Dromore National School in Bantry, Co. Cork. Convent will use their funds to purchase math teaching supplies for their youngest students and implement small group math initiatives. Dromore will use their funds to purchase math teaching supplies for their older students; at their small school, one teacher instructs students from three different classes simultaneously, so having math games and puzzles allows her to juggle complex curricula and give individualized attention to all students.

Convent Primary and Dromore National Schools applied for grants using the Partnership's new direct grants platform, which showcases primary school funding needs on the Partnership's website. Partnership supporters can directly review the funding proposals and donate any amount to programs that interest them. Visit www.irishap.org/school-programs for more information on this new grassroots funding effort.



Convent Primary School Teacher Kevin Toomey explains the impact of their Partnership grant



Dromore National School in Bantry received a Partnership grant for math teaching supplies

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Cliftonville Integrated Primary School

Cliftonville Integrated Primary School is a welcoming and diverse community located near both the Shankill Road and the Ardoyne. Students at Cliftonville require substantial support: 65% come from low income backgrounds and 35% have special educational needs. The Partnership, through the Integrated Education Fund, was pleased to present a check for \$10,000 in support of Cliftonville’s outdoor classroom and community garden. This urban garden will foster healthy eating, enhance community relations, and provide a space for safe outdoor play.



Botanic & Holy Rosary Primary Schools

Botanic and Holy Rosary Primary Schools received grants of \$5,000 each for their shared education programming. Shared education brings students from Protestant and Catholic schools together to learn with peers of different faith and cultural backgrounds, promoting mutual respect and understanding.

Students from both schools presented on their shared education projects during the Leadership Mission, showcasing their creativity, intellect, and teamwork.



Community Programs 174 Trust & Youth Link NI

The Partnership supports cross-community youth programming at 174 Trust and Youth Link Northern Ireland.

For the past three years, the Partnership funded three students’ studies towards a BA Honors Degree in Youth and Community Work and Practical Theology through Youth Link Northern Ireland. They are eager to graduate this fall and begin serving their communities full-time.

“The Irish American Partnership’s grants help Irish students realize their full potential as future leaders. We cannot thank you enough for your support”
-Teacher Kevin Toomey,
Convent Primary School

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Leadership Mission participants had the opportunity to meet with numerous government representatives in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, where they gained insight into Brexit negotiations and implications, the educational systems, and government priorities.



Department of Education



Department of Foreign Affairs



Roundtable with government officials in Northern Ireland



Belfast City Hall

What’s Next?

The Partnership has a full schedule of upcoming events. Please visit www.irishap.org/events to register.

Tuesday, January 8th: Nollaig na mBan (Women’s Christmas) breakfast celebration in Washington, D.C.

Thursday, January 10th: Nollaig na mBan (Women’s Christmas) breakfast celebration in Boston

Thursday, March 14th: St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast Celebration in Boston

Friday, March 15th: St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast Celebration in Chicago