



THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Education in Ireland, North & South

Annual Campaign Report 2015-2016



*Honor your past by
building Ireland's future*

Partnership Supports RDS Primary Science Fairs in Dublin, Limerick



Minister for Education and Skills Jan O'Sullivan announces the RDS Science Fair in Limerick, co-sponsored by The Irish American Partnership

What is biodynamic gardening? What is the link between lung capacity and heart rate in relation to fitness? Does hens' feed affect the taste of their eggs?

Young scientists from across Ireland will convene in Dublin and Limerick to present their answers to these intriguing questions, demonstrating an ability to formulate, investigate, and solve a scientific question. As part of the Dublin or Limerick RDS Science Fairs, they will have a unique opportunity to learn from their peers' experiments and participate in educational activities in a fun, non-competitive environment.

The Partnership has been involved with the RDS Primary Science Fair in Dublin for the past two years, providing travel grants to disadvantaged schools that are located more than 4 hours from the Fair. This year, the RDS and The Irish American Partnership are jointly sponsoring an additional Fair at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick.

The Limerick Primary Science Fair will engage an additional 2,000 primary school students in scientific investigation and discovery. Building on the success of the RDS Primary Science Fair in Dublin, the Limerick expansion will be held on January 14th and 15th, 2016.

For the past two years, the Dublin Fair has been 120% over-subscribed and difficult for many schools to attend due to the length and cost of travel necessitated. The Irish American Partnership provided travel grants for rural schools to ease the financial burden, but the distance and over-subscription prevented many interested schools from participating. For this reason, the RDS and The Irish American Partnership are piloting a regional expansion model, beginning in Limerick in 2016

Launching the expansion to Limerick, Minister for Education & Skills, and local Limerick TD, Jan O'Sullivan said:

"The RDS Primary Science Fair is a fantastic initiative. It nurtures young students' natural curiosity and sense of wonder and provides them with a great stage to show off their endeavours."

The Partnership and the RDS are grateful to have the support of the Irish government in their quest to instill a love for science learning in primary students. The skills students gain while preparing and presenting their projects at the RDS Fair extend far beyond the classroom. They learn teamwork, responsibility, and public speaking. And when things inevitably go awry, they develop the ability to cope, regroup, and try once again. But if you asked these bright young students about the RDS Fair, they would just say it was fun.



Students from Ballyvaughan National School, Co. Clare present their project on hydroponics at the 2015 RDS Primary Science Fair in Dublin

The Irish American Partnership

Direct Grants to Schools | Science Development
University Access | Employment Learning



\$1,198,682
was raised in 2014

86.8%
of 2014 revenue
went to Ireland



Our Mission

The Irish American Partnership works to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives through **direct grants to primary schools, science teacher training, university access scholarships, and employment learning programs.** The Partnership provides forums for visiting leaders from Ireland to speak in the United States, connecting Irish Americans with their heritage and promoting economic development through tourism, trade, and mutual exchange.

SPOTLIGHT ON: EMPLOYMENT LEARNING

FIT Launches an Apprenticeship Program for the 21st Century

The Partnership has been supporting Peter Davitt's employment learning company, Fasttrack to IT, for over ten years. Fasttrack to IT, or FIT, officially commenced their first two classes in the new ICT Associate Professional Program in May. This "learn and earn" program is based off a modern apprenticeship model, whereby students spend part of their time in the classroom and the remainder working at a placement in the technology sector. Of the 38 candidates that started in May, 84% were unemployed and at high risk for long-term unemployment.

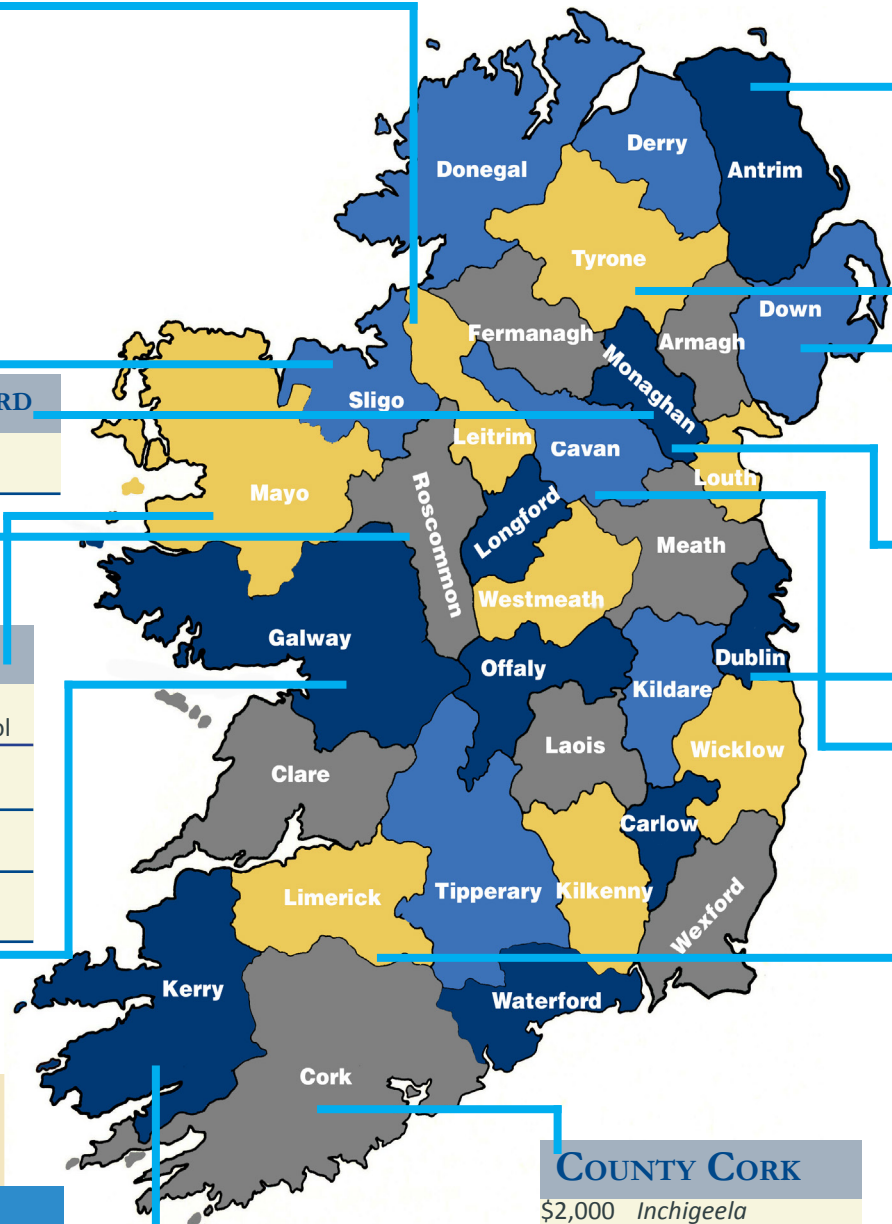


By providing training in systems, networks, and software development, the Associate Professional Program meets the needs of both its students and its corporate partners. Most of the students were school leavers and never had the chance to develop the skills needed to compete in the modern economy. Thus, the program affords them a second chance at a stable, fulfilling career that will allow them to provide for themselves and their families. From the companies standpoint, they gain qualified employees to staff entry and mid-level positions at their Irish offices. The companies partner with FIT to identify skills needed to succeed in their workforce while also providing hands-on training and pay, giving companies a chance to evaluate and mold the candidates and candidates the opportunity to determine if their placement would be a good long-term fit.

Recent Partnership Grants

Thanks to your generosity, we have made a meaningful impact on hundreds of students' lives through our direct grants to primary schools, science development, university access programs, and employment learning programs.

With additional support, we could expand these programs even further.



COUNTY ROSCOMMON

\$1,000	Castlerea
Scoil Naisiunta Mhuire Lourdes	
\$1,000	Castlerea
Tibohine National School	
\$1,000	Castlerea
Fairymount National School	
\$1,000	Castlerea
Scoil Naisiunta Lios a Cuill M	
\$1,000	Castlerea
Ballangare National School	

COUNTY LEITRIM

\$1,000	Carrick-on-Shannon
Fatima National School	
\$1,000	Carrigallen
Drumeela National School	
\$1,000	Carrigallen
Carrigallen National School	
\$1,000	Carrick-on-Shannon
Scoil Naisiunta Naomh Padraig	

COUNTY SLIGO

\$1,000	Ballymote
Scoil Croi Naofa	
\$1,000	Ballymote
Scoil Naisiunta Cul Fada	
\$1,000	Ballymote
Killaville National School	
\$1,000	Culleens
St. Joseph's National School	

COUNTY LONGFORD

\$3,500	Longford
St. Mel's College	

COUNTY MAYO

\$500	Shrule
St. Joseph's National School	
\$500	Castlebar
Breaffy National School	
\$500	Claremorris
St. John's National School	
\$5,000	Swinford
Culmore National School	

COUNTY GALWAY

\$4,500	Aran Islands
Aran Islands GAA	
\$750	Aran Islands
Scoil Naisiunta Caomhain	
\$750	Aran Islands
Scoil Naisiunta Eoin Pol II	
\$750	Aran Islands
Scoil Naisiunta Inis Meadhoin	
\$750	Aran Islands
Scoil Naisiunta Ronain	

Science Teacher Training

COUNTY MAYO	{ \$12,000 AWARDED }
Bekan National School	Claremorris
Culleens National School	Meelick
Culmore National School	Swinford
Killasser National School	Swinford
Barnacogue National School	Swinford
Kinaffe National School	Swinford
Carrowmore National School	Swinford
The Neale National School	Ballinrobe
Ballycushion National School	Shrule

COUNTY KILKENNY	{ \$11,000 AWARDED }
Scoil Mhuire	Mullinhone
Skeoughvosteen National School	Skeoughvosteen
Lisnafunchion National School	Castlecomer
St. Kiernan's National School	Johnstown
St. Nicolas National School	Windgap
Clonoulty National School	Cashel

COUNTY KERRY

\$500	Castlegregory
Castlegregory Mixed National School	
\$500	Tarbert
Tarbert National School	
\$500	Tralee
Ballymacelligott 1 National School	
\$20,000	Tralee
Kerry GAA	

COUNTY CORK

\$2,000	Inchigeela
Inchigeela National School	
\$2,000	Drinagh
Derryclough National School	
\$2,000	Fermoy
Kilmagner National School	
\$2,000	Mallow
Mallow Development Project	
\$500	Kanturk
Convent School of Mercy	
\$2,000	Banteer
Banteer National School	
\$1,000	Glantane
Glantane National School	
\$2,000	Fermoy
Kilmagner National School	
\$2,000	Cork City
North Monastery Primary School	

COUNTY ANTRIM

\$5,000	Belfast
Avoniel Primary School	
\$5,000	Belfast
St. Louise's Comprehensive College	
\$10,000	Belfast
Ulster University	
\$30,000	Belfast
Community Foundation for NI	
\$7,500	Belfast
St. Kieran's Primary School	
\$7,500	Belfast
Elmgrove Primary School	
\$10,000	Belfast
Youth Link NI	

COUNTY DOWN

\$10,000	Portadown
Portadown Integrated Primary	

COUNTY TYRONE

\$5,000	Omagh
Ulster American Folk Park	
\$500	Carrickmore
St. Columbkille's Primary School	

COUNTY MONAGHAN

\$500	Carrickmacross
St. Joseph's Boys National School	

COUNTY CAVAN

\$500	Crosserlough
St. Mary's National School	

COUNTY DUBLIN

\$10,000	Dublin City
Dublin City University	
\$23,000	Dublin City
St. Patrick's College	
\$10,000	Dublin City
Trinity College	
\$10,000	Dublin City
Fasttrack to IT	
\$2,500	Dublin City
Rutland St. National School	
\$2,500	Dublin City
Gardiner St. Convent School	

COUNTY LIMERICK

\$22,000	Limerick City
St. Nessan's Secondary School	
\$2,500	Limerick City
Scoil Christ Ri	
\$2,500	Limerick City
John F. Kennedy Memorial School	
\$10,000	Limerick City
Mary Immaculate College	
\$1,000	Newcastle West
Monagea National School	
\$500	Kilmallock
O'Hely & O'Rourke Girls School	
\$10,000	Limerick City
University of Limerick	
\$23,000	Limerick City
RDS Primary Science Fair Limerick	

Additional Educational Funding

Shannon School of Hotel Management	\$10,000
<i>Shannon, Co. Clare</i>	
Kylemore Education Center	\$118,770
<i>Connemara, Co. Galway</i>	
University College Dublin	\$4,500
<i>Dublin, Co. Dublin</i>	
Smurfit Business School	\$42,500
<i>Dublin, Co. Dublin</i>	
Integrated Education Fund	\$20,000
<i>Belfast, Co. Antrim</i>	

Community Group Funding

174 Trust, Co. Antrim	\$1,000
Best of Ireland Gala, Co. Dublin	\$10,000
Eiru Trust, Co. Cork	\$125,000
Irish American Arts & Music Foundation, Co. Dublin	\$17,500
The National Concert Hall, Co. Dublin	\$25,000
Social Innovation Fund, Co. Dublin	\$25,000
Kenmare Hospital, Co. Kerry	\$10,000
Carnegie Arts Center, Co. Kerry	\$5,000
Scotch Irish Trust, Co. Tyrone	\$150
The Pushkin Trust, Co. Tyrone	\$15,000

RDS Science Fair Travel Grants {\$450 per grant}

Barefield National School	<i>Barefield, Co. Clare</i>
S. N. Eoin Baiste	<i>Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare</i>
St. Mochulla's National School	<i>Tulla, Co. Clare</i>
Balytdaniel National School	<i>Newtupothouse, Co. Cork</i>
Barryroe National School	<i>Lislevane, Bandon, Co. Cork</i>
Derryclough National School	<i>Drinagh, Dunmanway, Co. Cork</i>
Darrara National School	<i>Cruary, Clonakilty, Co. Cork</i>
Killavulleen National School	<i>Killavulleen, Mallow, Co. Cork</i>
Midleton Educate Together	<i>Midleton, Co. Cork</i>
Our Lady of Mercy National School	<i>Bantry, Co. Cork</i>
Ovens National School	<i>Ovens, Co. Cork</i>
PALS Afterschool	<i>Ballinglann, Glanmire, Co. Cork</i>
Scoil Bhríde	<i>Midleton, Co. Cork</i>
Scoil Mhuire Lourdes	<i>Carrigaline, Co. Cork</i>
Scoil Naomh Fionan	<i>Rennies, Nohocal, Belgooly, Co. Cork</i>
St. Enda's National School	<i>Kilnadure, Co. Cork</i>
St. John the Baptist National School	<i>Midleton, Co. Cork</i>
St. John's Girls National School	<i>Carrigaline, Co. Cork</i>
Summercove National School	<i>Kinsale, Co. Cork</i>
Brierhill National School	<i>Ballybrit, Co. Galway</i>
Corrandulla National School	<i>Corrandulla, Co. Galway</i>
Scoil Eanna	<i>Bullaun, Loughrea, Co. Galway</i>
Scoil Iosaif Naofa	<i>Oranmore, Co. Galway</i>
Scoil na Maighdine Muire Gan Smal	<i>Camus, Connemara, Co. Galway</i>
St. Oliver Plunkett National School	<i>Keilkerrin, Ballinsloe, Co. Galway</i>
Firies National School	<i>Firies, Co. Kerry</i>
Moyderwell Mercy Primary School	<i>Moyderwell, Tralee, Co. Kerry</i>
Nagle Rice National School	<i>Milltown, Co. Kerry</i>
Scoil Mhuire	<i>Brosna, Tralee, Co. Kerry</i>
Carrakennedy National School	<i>Liscarney, Westport, Co. Mayo</i>
Stokane National School	<i>Enniscrone, Co. Sligo</i>

Mary Robinson to Keynote Annual Nollaig na mBan Celebration



Former Irish President Mary Robinson will keynote the Partnership's 2016 Nollaig na mBan Breakfast Celebration held in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2016. Nollaig na mBan, or Women's Christmas, is held each year in January throughout Ireland to celebrate women's leadership within the family and community. The Partnership commemorates this tradition with a breakfast highlighting Irish-American female leaders and the positive impact they have worldwide.

Mary Robinson served as the first female President of Ireland from 1990 to 1997 and was credited for fundamentally transforming the office from a low-profile position to a platform for change. During her presidency, she warmed Anglo-Irish relations, engaged the Irish Diaspora, and oversaw the passage of hallmark women's rights legislation. Lauded as one of Ireland's most beloved Presidents, Robinson ultimately resigned

two months early to assume the position of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Robinson used the post to campaign for the rights of the oppressed, silenced, and marginalized, bringing human rights to the forefront of the UN's agenda.

Proceeds of the Nollaig na mBan Breakfast Celebration will be donated to the Mary Robinson Centre, Ireland's first Presidential Library and Museum, located in Ballina, Co. Mayo. The Centre will serve as a permanent reminder of the importance of female leaders in Ireland's history, bringing international tourism to Mayo and serving as an educational resource for students across the globe.

Culmore National School in County Mayo Builds Resource Room

Nestled in the hills of Western Ireland, Culmore is a remnant of Ireland past, with only two classrooms and 27 pupils. For many, it serves as a symbol of their proud heritage, the primary school where their mother, grandmother, and perhaps even great-grandmother attended. Miles from the town of Swinford, Culmore is central to the life of the small, tight-knit community it serves.



For the last three years, Culmore has petitioned the Department of Education and Skills for the €50,000 needed to build a Learning Support/ Resource Room. The space would provide a dedicated space for teaching students with special educational needs. Finally, this May, the Department issued a grant of €30,000, which falls significantly short of the required sum. The Partnership provided a grant of \$5,000 to assist with their fundraising effort, and the community made up the rest. Principal Hazel Cosgrove expressed her sincerest gratitude on behalf of the students, parents, and Board of Management.



Upcoming Events

Nollaig na mBan: January 6 2016, Washington, D.C.

St. Patrick's Day Chicago: March 11 2016, Union League Club of Chicago

St. Patrick's Day Boston: March 17 2016, Boston Harbor Hotel

Chicago Golf Tournament: June 6 2016, Beverly Country Club

Newport Golf Tournament: June 13 2016, Newport Country Club

Albany Golf Tournament: June 20 2016, Schuyler Meadows Club

University Access Programs Bridge Gap for Low-Income Students



Trinity Access Program students at a lecture on campus

Growing up, Jesse Duffy watched as her mother sacrificed to give her every chance at a bright future. While her mother was a single parent with a limited income, she wanted her daughter to have every opportunity to pursue her passions.

As Jesse entered secondary school, she quickly developed an interest in languages. After gaining basic fluency in German and Japanese and doing a successful Leaving Certificate, Jesse was accepted to Trinity College. Unfortunately, as she began to examine the true costs of university life, she realized that even a part-time job would not suffice. Just when she thought that Trinity was out of reach, she got word of her Access Scholarship funded by the Irish American Partnership.

Jesse is currently studying Spanish and Irish and looking forward to Trinity-sponsored language exchanges to keep up her German and Japanese. On campus, she is very involved in student government and The Phil (debate club), while also volunteering with the Irish language youth club in her home town. Without an access scholarship, she would not have been able to get involved in campus life and contribute to the Trinity community.

“Receiving the help of this scholarship made college possible. It enables me to stay in college and fulfill my goals. I am a big dreamer and have many plans for the future; thank you for the scholarship from the Irish American Partnership for helping make them possible.”

-Jesse Duffy 1st year Irish and Spanish

The Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) assist over 1,000 undergraduate students earn a degree at Trinity. These students are often the first in their families and wider communities who aspire to and successfully pursue a course in Trinity College. In order to gain admittance through TAP, they are required to meet various criteria, including: having parents who lack a college education, growing up in low income communities, and attending designated disadvantaged schools.

The Partnership supports Access Programs at five Irish universities: **Trinity College, Ulster University, Dublin City University, Queen’s University, and University of Limerick**. These remarkable programs are innovating in the field of university accessibility. The coordinators understand that they cannot simply hand a student a tuition check and expect them to succeed in university. They know that students from disadvantaged areas may be behind in certain subjects or may feel socially ostracized from their peers. So they create a welcoming environment for students to truly thrive, offering counseling services, peer discussion groups, tutoring, volunteer opportunities, housing stipends, and more. Most importantly, they insure students in the access program are fully integrated in the campus community, encouraging extra-curricular participation, academic research, and in many cases, on-campus living. These efforts address students needs on a social, economic, and emotional level, truly leveling the playing field for disadvantaged students.



Access Scholarship recipients at Trinity's 2015 Graduation

Partnership Gives \$20,000 to City Schools in Dublin & Belfast

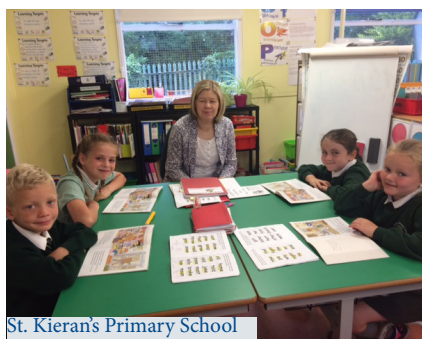
DUBLIN

This June, Partnership President Joe Leary visited four city schools in Dublin and Belfast during a trip to evaluate program funding. While the Partnership normally provides grants to rural schools, these urban schools were in dire need of support. Riddled with high crime rates and a large drug presence, Rutland Street and Gardiner Street Convent Schools needed basic materials to create a safe environment that breeds passion for learning.

Mr. Leary presented each school with \$2,500 to promote literacy and science education. With their funds, both schools have agreed to refresh their libraries, stocking exciting new literature for the students, and purchase new science teaching materials. While these schools receive special support from the government due to their severely disadvantaged status, educational budget cuts have resulted in less funding than previous years. The little funding they still do receive go towards basic necessities such as free school meals, securing the premises, and employing the staff. Thus, the Partnership grants were greatly appreciated.



BELFAST



After visiting Rutland and Gardiner Street Schools in Dublin, Mr. Leary traveled to Belfast to present \$2,500 grants to St. Kieran's and Elmgrove Primary Schools. In meeting with the principals, he was amazed by the passion, energy, and dedication Principals Jayne Jeffers and Brian McAlea exhibited. They stretched the original grants as far as they could, investing in new books, math supplies, and technology, but this was not enough to target inadequate literacy and math resources in both schools.

In September, the Partnership was able to donate an additional \$5,000 to both St. Kieran's and Elmgrove Primary Schools. While \$7,500 in grants can't solve every problem each school encounters, it certainly sowed relief amongst the principals and teachers, who were overwhelmed by the international support for their primary schools.

St. Kieran's Primary School, which has the highest percentage of free school meal recipients in Northern Ireland, funneled all of the funds into literacy promotion. They were able to fully fund their accelerated reading program and their bug club, an early intervention reading program, as well as purchase new books for their lunchtime library club. These programs were no longer receiving government support due to education budget cuts and were at severe risk of being discontinued. The Partnership grants allowed them to provide support to students on all ends of the literacy spectrum: from those struggling to learn to read to those excelling far beyond their peers.

Elmgrove Primary School used their original grant to purchase iPads for their classrooms. The majority of Elmgrove students are socioeconomically disadvantaged and do not have the same access to technology as their more privileged peers. They are using their additional \$5,000 grant to purchase new books and technology aimed at improving literacy and numeracy outcomes.