

## ***Donegal ETB – 11,800 Adult Learners in 2013***

### **Certificate Presentation Ceremonies by Donegal ETB Adult Education Service**

The Donegal Education and Training Board (formerly Donegal VEC) Adult Education Service held a presentation ceremony of certificates in the Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey.

Over two hundred adult learners from across the county were presented with FETAC (Further Education and Training Awards Council) certificates. The certificates were awarded at level three, four, five and six on the National Framework of Qualifications. There were also presentations of certificates for the Leaving Certificate to the students from the Letterkenny Centre. There were recipients present from Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Letterkenny, Milford, Buncrana and Gortahork as well as all the outreach locations in the county.

Dr Martin Gormley, Adult Education Officer with Donegal ETB welcomed all guests and participants to the event. He congratulated all the learners on their success and thanked them for choosing Donegal ETB as an educational provider. He said that *'you as successful recipients of educational certificates tonight are tremendous ambassadors for our education system, you are a shining example to all our young people currently on an educational journey'*.

Mr Shaun Purcell, Chief Executive Officer paid tribute to the staff of Donegal ETB, *'I want to congratulate the ETB staff here, in the County, for their excellent work in providing high quality education to all participants. I would like to acknowledge the role of management, tutors and support staff'*. In congratulating all recipients he stated *'that it was never too late to embrace the provision of adult education and gain new skills in a changing economic environment'*. CEO Purcell also referred to all the recent and future changes in the Further Education and Training landscape. He looked forward to the integration of the local SOLAS (former FAS) provision into the ETB from the summer of 2014. He referred to the huge number of people in the county participating in adult education in the ETB. *'Last year, 2013, in excess of 11,800 adult learners accessed Donegal ETB adult courses, this represents a significant percentage of the population of the county'*.

Cllr Philip McGlynn, Chairperson of Donegal ETB, then presented certificates to each of the two hundred plus recipients. Ms Caroline O Rourke, Adult Education Co-ordinator with Donegal ETB, ensured each

participant was called forward to receive their certificates from Cllr McGlynn.

Ms Cróna Gallagher, Adult Education Officer with Donegal ETB, recognised the importance of the partnership approach to the provision of adult education with the network of Community and Family Resource Centres throughout the county. She paid particular tribute to the learners who received Level 6 Certificates in Community Development. *' the expertise and experience that you have now acquired in community development will serve you and your community well in promoting the value of education. The synergy generated between the community, statutory and voluntary sectors enables many adults to engage and seek out progression routes in adult, community and further education.'*

There were also presentations to recipients from the SOLAS organisation represented by Mr Guven Faracli in recognition of their achievements. The final presentation was a posthumous presentation to Mr Gerry and Marian O'Sullivan, the parents of the late Barry O'Sullivan. There followed a social evening and photographs as recipients had a chance to recognise their achievement with family and friends.