

Oscar Night for Donegal ETB

The Second Annual Awards night for Donegal Education and Training Board (Donegal ETB) was held in the Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey. The 'Oscar' style awards ceremony had representation from the 15 Donegal ETB schools and colleges managed by the Board as well as representation from the 8 Adult Education and Training Services, the Adult Guidance Service, Gartan Outdoor Education Centre, the Music Service and the Youth Service. There were awards in 8 different categories that included: Research, Technology and Education; Innovative Thinking; Inclusive Projects; Co-operation with Local Organisations, Green Projects, Good Practice in Health and Science and STEAM (Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). The background music entertained the guests on arrival to add to the sense of occasion.

Dr Martin Gormley MC for the night welcomed everybody to the ceremony. He congratulated all 54 projects that had been nominated across the various categories. He thanks all the participants both staff and students who had showed creativity and innovation in their work. He referred to the many highlights over the year and in particular the opening of Colaiste Ailigh, Leitir Ceannain and the Donegal ETB week of celebrations in October.

Mr Shaun Purcell, Chief Executive Donegal ETB, in introducing the awards to Donegal ETB referred to the breath of activity throughout the Board. He was delighted to congratulate all recipients, *'as Chief Executive of Donegal ETB I am proud and honoured to be associated with this occasion and I salute all those that have investigated the time, knowledge and energy in bringing the various projects to fruition'*. He paid tribute to the fine work that was happening on a day-to-day basis right across the ETB schools and centres in the County.

Cllr. Philip McGlynn, in his last official function as Chairperson of Donegal ETB presented the certificates and awards

There were certificates presented by the Chairperson to all 54 nominees and the 8 awards were then presented to the various winners in each category.

Mr Shaun Purcell wrapped up the occasion by congratulating all recipients of certificates and awards. He also referred to the important of sharing best practice in the scheme and communicating

good ideas, ‘occasions like this help us to acknowledge, recognise and more importantly share the wonderful work that is happening throughout our scheme. In our ever changing society it is important that we inculcate creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in our interaction with students.

Dr Martin Gormley thanked the organising committee of Frank Quinn, Fiona Temple, Ursula MacPhearson, Shaun Purcell, Susan Boyle and Eileen Dennison.

The eight award winners were:

Research:

Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, Arranmore

Technology and Education:

Deele College, Raphoe

Innovative Thinking:

Donegal ETB Adult Education Service

Inclusive Projects:

Deele College

Co-operation with Local Organisations:

Donegal ETB Learning for Living Programme and Errigal College

Green Projects:

Colaiste Phobail Cholmcille, Oilean Thorai

Good Practice in Health and Science:

Letterkenny Youthreach

STEAM (Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics):

Gairmscoil Chú Uladh