

PRESS RELEASE

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENTERPRISE AND SOCIETY THE KEY TO SUCCESS SAYS CIT PRESIDENT

Engagement with enterprise and society is the key to success says Cork Institute of Technology President, Dr Brendan Murphy speaking at the first day of annual conferrings. In excess of two thousand students will be conferred over four days.

The mission of CIT is threefold, teaching and learning, innovation and research, engagement with enterprise and society said Dr Murphy. “It is in our engagement with enterprise and society that you will see how we bring the other elements of our mission together into you, our graduates. We have formally established CIT Extended Campus to bring all our engagement together, be it Recognition of Prior Learning, work based learning, upskilling/continuing professional development for those in work, Springboard for those seeking work, work placement, consultancy, applied research and our highly commended incubation centre which has, at present, over 60 new start-up companies employing 220 people.

Indeed over the last decade our track record of over 200 start-ups employing over 2,500 people with a turnover of €100m+ per annum is second to none.

CIT continues to be an international partner of choice for many international universities and colleges. International partners see CIT as an industry-engaged institution, heavily engaged in developing professional graduates from Bachelors to PhD level, driving the development of start-up companies through applied research and contributing in a fundamental way to the development of our region. In this context, we have established an extensive partner network across Europe and in India, China, the Middle East, Canada and beyond.”

In the last academic year CIT created a School of Graduate Studies to focus, coordinate, plan and develop all our taught and research Masters and research PhD provision. It now offer in excess of thirty Taught Masters, a full range of research degrees in all our faculties as well as a Structured PhD programme.

“Closely linked to teaching and learning is our research and innovation activities which continue to grow in strength. Our research centres are attracting more visits by world-class researchers; they have more interactions with industry that are generating tangible benefits such as licenses and patents; they are employing higher quality graduates from a wider range of countries and have substantially increased their funding from international sources, in partnership with colleagues from across the globe. Our innovation ecosystem, which takes research from concept to commercial, has helped establish a number of spinout companies in the biological and bioinformatics areas. We continue to build our research infrastructure in areas of national importance, designed to test real world problems, including the National Sustainable Energy Testbed and the Passive Building Testbed. By the end of the year, we hope to begin construction of our new CREATE research building that will provide a unique multidisciplinary environment that brings physicists, chemists, biologists and biomedical engineers together. At undergraduate level

this research and innovation can be seen in final year projects and their quality has been recognised by several winning international awards and citations.

We have worked hard to provide our graduates with the best professional quality education possible to pave the way for future success. As they look to the future we are also looking to the future of CIT. We are seeking to develop the range and level of the services we provide as well as enhancing CIT's contribution to Ireland's economic development. This is why we are working with government, policy makers and our educational partners in Kerry and Limerick towards the creation, in the near future, of the Munster Technological University.

Dr Murphy congratulated all of those being conferred "You have, through study and application, reached a significant milestone in your life. The qualification you have gained today is the result of your own innate talent and hard work. Your success is also a reflection of the Government's emphasis and investment in the development of Higher Education. Your success is also due to the dedication and ability of your lecturers and the support of your families and friends."

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***For further Press Information:** Please contact Jean Kearney on 087 2527495 or Ivor Melia on 087 2234193 email: jean.kearney@cit.ie*