

Key Speakers

Michael Hallissy & John Hurley Michael and John are joint Directors of Learning at the Diageo Liberties Learning Initiative. Supported by €2.6 million funding from Diageo Ireland, the Diageo Liberties Learning Initiative is the vehicle through which the Digital Hub delivers a range of learning and showcasing projects focused on the creative use of digital media.

Through their H2 consultancy, Michael and John also manage the TeachNet Ireland project which funds and supports innovative Irish teachers to publish curriculum that demonstrate the integration of ICT into classroom teaching in a meaningful and practical way.

Formerly, both Michael and John worked with the National Centre for Technology Education where Michael was responsible for interactive content in the curriculum and John was responsible for the development of ScoilNet.

The Diageo Liberties Learning Initiative is experimenting with using digital technologies in creative ways to allow students and members of the wider Liberties community to learn in new and exciting ways. This presentation will share some of their stories.

Brendan Smith is Community & Educational Outreach Officer for the Digital Research Institute (DERI) at NUI, Galway. The Institute is pioneering research into the next generation of web technology known as the Semantic Web. DERI employs approximately 60 researchers and has established collaborative projects with institutes in fifteen countries.

Brendan's role is to help community groups and schools in the Galway region exploit the World Wide Web as an interactive communication and information-gathering system. He is well versed to oversee this development, being one of the region's most experienced and successful community campaigners as well as serving as co-ordinator of many local educational initiatives in the areas of science, technology, environment and heritage.

Online Social Networking - A pilot programme partnership approach between the local community and university research group DERI. The concept of building Online Community Network is to benefit all citizens, although it will have particular positive repercussions for those groupings defined as 'socially excluded'! The DERI initiative hopes in a small but influential way to break down some of the technological and cultural barriers limiting wider social inclusion.

The Fionn Project - Brendan is also Co-ordinator of this innovative programme that integrates digital video technology into the primary level science curriculum - thirty five primary schools in Galway City are involved in this project.

Key Speakers

Dr Tommy Cooke is the director of the **Community Links Programme** at The Dublin Institute of Technology. This programme is a multi-stranded programme targeting the primary, secondary, tertiary and community educational sectors in terms of educational disadvantage. There are currently thirteen staff employed full time and three staff employed part-time on the programme.

Tommy previously worked as a clinical biochemist and lectured in Dublin Institute of Technology for fifteen years. His interest in the area of educational disadvantage arose from his experience locally in Dublin inner city, Lesotho, Southern Africa and The West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The community links programme is funded through co-operation and partnership with the educational, voluntary, statutory community and corporate sector.

The Dublin Inner City Schools Computerisation Project (D.I.S.C.) objective is to achieve equality of access, opportunity and training of information and communication technology across inner city disadvantaged schools. The objective is being achieved through a partnership approach.

Following on from the D.I.S.C. project the need to give access to technology at home for disadvantaged communities was identified. **The Digital Community Project** was established and works through a partnership approach.

Fiona Masterson works as a psychotherapist for the Dublin Institute of Technology. Fiona runs the **'Pathways Through Education' programme** which aims to enhance self-esteem and confidence in young people. Fiona completed her degree in psychology at UCD before moving to London. While in London, Fiona worked with homeless people, mothers and children and in the area of mental health. Fiona completed her clinical training at Birbeck College before returning to Dublin in 2001 to join the Pathways Through Education Team.

Pathways Through Education is an innovative programme which aims to increase self-esteem and confidence in first year secondary school pupils. The programme works in partnership with students, school staff and parents to develop a holistic approach to the enhancement of self-esteem. In 2004 'Pathways through Education' completed joint project work with the Digital Community and Diageo Liberties Learning Initiative.



DERI GALWAY



Organised by

PRESENTATION CENTRE FOR POLICY AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE



Wednesday 11th May 2005
10.00 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.



Hosted by

GALWAY EDUCATION CENTRE

Cluain Mhuire, Monivea Park, Galway.

Welcome Note

This event - **Learner Centred Learning/Communication Technology** – arose in response to the seminar **Discovering the Hidden Connections for Learning**, held in October 2004, and organised by **Presentation Centre for Policy and Systemic Change**. It is also a response to a recognition that approaches to Learning and Communication are being revolutionized more rapidly than most of us are aware.

Aim

- To address how technology facilitates communication.
- To demonstrate how the collaborative effort of a wide variety of Educational Institutions addresses **learner-centred learning/communication technology** - from the “cradle to the grave”.
- To address the inclusion of those disconnected from networks of information and communication.
- To demonstrate how people’s self-esteem can be increased when they are engaged in meaningful learning activities utilising I.C.T.
- To experience how digital technology presents us with the opportunity to define new learning paradigms where the learner is more involved in constructing his/her own learning.
- To experience the creative power of I.C.T. to release individual potential, and to support the development of sustainable, skilled and learning communities.
- To demonstrate how **Information Communication Technology** is a life skill for the 21st century.

“The ability to use new technology is rapidly becoming a skill as fundamental as the established literacies of reading, writing and numeracy. Those already marginalised in society are at risk of becoming even more disadvantaged in an Information Society”

INFORMATION SOCIETY COMMISSION REPORT
IT ACCESS FOR ALL, MARCH 2000

Programme

09.15 – 10.00	Registration, Coffee/Tea
10.00 – 10.10	Address of Welcome Ann Marie Quinn PBVM Programme Leader for Learning Innovation, Presentation Centre for Policy & Systemic Change.
	Bernard Kirk Director of Galway Education Centre.
10.10 – 11.00	“How Digital Technology Facilitates Learning” Michael Hallissy Director of Learning at the Diageo Liberties Learning Initiative. Chaired by: John Hurley Co-Director of Learning at the Diageo Liberties Learning Initiative.
11.00 – 11.20	Coffee/Tea
11.20 – 12.00	“Dublin Schools Computerisation Project (D.I.S.C)” “The Digital Community Project” Dr. Tommy Cooke Director of Links Programme, Dublin Institute of Technology. Chaired by: Bernard Kirk Director of Galway Education Centre.
12.00 – 12.30	“Pathways through Education” Fiona Masterson Co-ordinator/Psychotherapist – Pathways Programme D.I.T. Chaired by: Dr. Tommy Cooke Director of Links Programme, Dublin Institute of Technology.
12.30 – 12.45	Discussion
12.45– 1.45	Lunch
1.45– 2.45	“Online Social Networking...Turning Social Exclusion into Social Inclusion” Brendan Smith Education Outreach Officer, Digital Enterprise Research Institute N.U.I. Galway. Chaired by: Ann Coffey PBVM Programme Leader Social Inclusion, Presentation Centre for Policy and Systemic Change.
2.45– 3.15	Panel – Gathering the Learnings of the Day Chaired by: David Rose Director, Presentation Centre for Policy and Systemic Change.
3.15	Closing Remarks Ann Marie Quinn PBVM Programme Leader for Learning Innovation, Presentation Centre for Policy & Systemic Change.

Who Should Attend?

This event is aimed at practitioners, policy makers and anyone involved in Life Long Learning - from the ‘Cradle to the Grave’.

Who Are We?

The Presentation Centre for Policy and Systemic Change was set up by the Presentation Sisters to work for social justice through responding to unmet social and educational needs. We work with people and organisations in innovative ways and through that collaboration strive to influence public policy in favour of people experiencing exclusion. We believe a new educational paradigm based on lifelong learning is necessary for a more inclusive society.

Our work is organised in four programmes:

- **Learning Innovation**
- **Social Inclusion**
- **Research, Policy & Advocacy**
- **Human Rights and Ecology**

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