



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Update from the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities

School of Education, Trinity College Dublin

Spring 2024



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Dear Partners,

There have been a lot of significant events over the past few months. We celebrated 20 years of the TCPID in October with a fantastic 'Learning Without Limits' event where our students and graduates took centre stage. In December, we celebrated the launch of the EY Playbook: Engage. Enable. Empower., which was developed based on learnings from the TCPID internships-to-date in EY. In February we celebrated with 9 other higher educational institutions, the announcement of the Government PATH 4 funding to support programmes for students with intellectual disabilities in higher education colleges across Ireland. All this, in addition to celebrating another very special graduation day with our 8 most recent graduates.

We are also celebrating the fact that since our last update, four more of our TCPID graduates have received permanent contracts with our TCPID Business Partners. Huge congratulations to Dúalta, Ciara, Bobby and Liam on being offered permanent contracts with Grant Thornton, EY, Arthur Cox and the National Lottery.

We are thrilled to welcome another four new TCPID Business Partners / Patrons to join our incredible network. Thank you to BDO Ireland, Microsoft, Ryanair and John Sisk & Son for signing up with us. We are so looking forward to working with you over the coming years.

Thank you so much as always for your ongoing support which means so much to us,

TCPID Pathways Coordinator - Email: devittma@tcd.ie / Tel: 087-6664548

Please follow all our latest news on our website at www.tcd.ie/tcpid as well as on Facebook [@InclusionTCD](https://www.facebook.com/InclusionTCD), Twitter [@IDTCD](https://twitter.com/IDTCD) Instagram [inclusiontcd](https://www.instagram.com/inclusiontcd) as well as on LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/school/inclusiontcd



PATH 4 Funding for TCPID and 9 Higher Education Colleges

TCPID are delighted to announce that we have been awarded funding in PATH 4 Phase 2. The official announcement took place at a launch event at the Gibson Hotel in Dublin on Friday February 9th 2024.



This marked a historic moment for inclusive higher education as **Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris (TD)** announced the roll-out of higher education courses for students with intellectual disabilities. This significant initiative, spearheaded by Harris' department and the **Higher Education Authority (HEA)**, will be delivered across 10 higher education colleges nationwide, offering unprecedented opportunities for learners with intellectual disabilities across communities.

Minister Harris emphasised the importance of equitable representation in higher education, stating: *"We know that people with an intellectual disability have not been represented adequately in Higher Education. We want and need our College campuses to reflect their communities."*

He highlighted the €10 million investment to support learners with intellectual disabilities, ensuring equality of opportunity for all.

In response to last year's call for comprehensive plans to support such students in higher education, institutions across Ireland submitted proposals. **The Department of Further and Higher Education Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)** has allocated funding to those with the most promising initiatives and the PATH 4 Phase 2 Launch Event unveiled the recipients of this crucial government support.



Minister Simon Harris speaking with students from colleges around the country



TCPID’s successful proposal for PATH 4 Phase 2 funding, aims to provide sustainable university and employment pathways for students with intellectual disabilities. Through a seamless integration of awareness-building, academic excellence, and post-graduation support within its three distinct phased plan TCPID seeks to continue to empower students and promote inclusivity in higher education.

Professor Michael Shevlin, Director of Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities said: *"As the Director of TCPID, I am thrilled by the success of our programme in securing funding under the PATH 4 Phase 2 initiative. Originally emerging from the unmet demand for inclusive post-secondary education, today, I am proud to see the government formally recognising our students' innate ability and acknowledging the potential of future generations.*

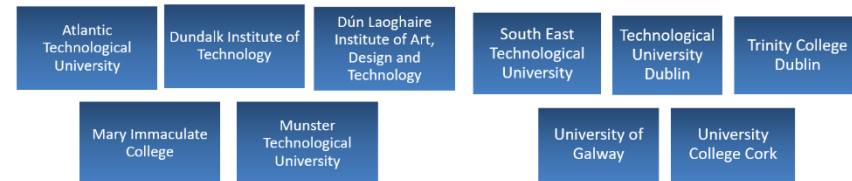
Young people with intellectual disabilities deserve the right to belong wherever they choose, and TCPID is dedicated to providing them with the opportunities and resources necessary to thrive. This funding not only validates our efforts but also empowers us to continue our mission of creating a more inclusive society.

I extend my gratitude to everyone involved in making this success possible, especially my dedicated colleagues in TCPID and the School of Education. We are excited to see the positive impact this funding will have on the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities – not just in Trinity, but all across the country."

TCD Provost Linda Doyle said: *"TCPID has been a trail blazer in advancing higher education opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities, and its impact has been felt at a national and European level. This funding success will propel the Arts Science and Inclusive Practice programme to a new level of provision. I want to congratulate the entire team, especially the Director, Prof. Michael Shevlin, on this funding success.*

Trinity is incredibly proud of all that has been achieved to date and we are really looking forward to seeing all that is to come. Inclusion matters and the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities provides leadership for us all to follow."

Here are the details of the successful 10 programmes who will be receiving funding as part of PATH 4





Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice Graduation February 2024

Huge congratulations to our 8 students who graduated with a Level 5 **Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice** in Trinity College Dublin on Thursday February 1st 2024.

We are incredibly proud of them for everything that they have achieved over the past few years. This is only the beginning of an exciting journey for all of them.

We were thrilled to see one of the photos from the graduation appear in The Irish Times on Saturday February 3rd as Photo of the Week!



Graduates posing at the top of the Exam Hall

The Week

In case you missed it By Eoin Butler

Photograph of the Week Graduation day at Trinity



It was a day of joy at Trinity College Dublin as 20 young graduates from the Trinity Centre for Professional Studies celebrated their Level 5 Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice. The group of graduates posed for a group photo on the steps of the main building on Thursday, February 1st, 2024.

Out of the Week

Have I got fake news for you

1. One of the most interesting stories in the paper is the one about the fake news. It's a story about a woman who has been accused of spreading fake news on social media. The woman is a 45-year-old woman from Dublin who has been accused of spreading fake news about the Irish government. She has been accused of spreading fake news about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol. She has been accused of spreading fake news about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol. She has been accused of spreading fake news about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol.



A woman who has been accused of spreading fake news on social media. She has been accused of spreading fake news about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol.

Barometer



A man who has been mentioned in the 'Barometer' section.



A man who has been mentioned in the 'Barometer' section.



A man who has been mentioned in the 'Barometer' section.



A man who has been mentioned in the 'Barometer' section.

Give Me a Crash Course in... Marcus Rashford



Marcus Rashford is a professional footballer who plays for Manchester United. He is a forward and has scored many goals for his club and the national team. He is a very talented player and is considered one of the best players in the Premier League. He is a very hardworking player and is always trying to improve himself. He is a very popular player and has a large following of fans. He is a very good player and is always trying to be the best. He is a very good player and is always trying to be the best.

Most Read on IrishTimes.com

1. The Irish Times has published a new article about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol.
2. The Irish Times has published a new article about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol.
3. The Irish Times has published a new article about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol.
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7. The Irish Times has published a new article about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol.
8. The Irish Times has published a new article about the Irish government's plans to introduce a new tax on alcohol.

Soundbite

A short quote from a person mentioned in the article.

Place of the Week Cape Ray, Newfoundland, Canada



Cape Ray is a beautiful coastal town in Newfoundland, Canada. It is a very scenic town and is known for its beautiful views of the ocean. It is a very popular tourist destination and is a very beautiful town. It is a very beautiful town and is known for its beautiful views of the ocean. It is a very popular tourist destination and is a very beautiful town.

Seven Days in numbers

- 0.5% Increase in the number of people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19.
- 60 Number of people who have been arrested for drug possession in the past week.
- 726 Number of people who have been arrested for drug possession in the past week.
- \$7,897 The amount of money that has been raised for a charity in the past week.
- \$50m The amount of money that has been raised for a charity in the past week.

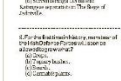
Barometer



A man who has been mentioned in the 'Barometer' section.



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A man who has been mentioned in the 'Barometer' section.

The Irish Times Photo of the Week Saturday February 3rd 2024



Clíodhna O'Rourke, Liam Foley and Diarmuid Owens



Graduates in the Exam Hall with Dr. Donatella Camedda



Jack McFadden, Oscar Daly and Diarmuid Owens



Conor Dunne and Cliodhna O'Rourke



Cliodhna O'Rourke, Liam Foley, Diarmuid Owens, Jack McFadden and Conor Dunne



Cliodhna O'Rourke and Jack McFadden



Emer Murphy, Jack McFadden and Marie Devitt



Graduate Jack McFadden



Graduate Liam Foley



Graduates with TCPID and School of Education staff in the Dining Hall



Oscar Daly, Dr. Donatella Camedda, Dr. John Kubiak and Conor Dunne



Jack McFadden and Oscar Daly



Jodie Daly and Jack McFadden



TCPID staff with the new graduates on the Dining Hall steps



Graduates jumping with joy in Front Square



TCPID - Learning Without Limits

On October 27th 2023, **Minister Simon Harris** joined students, past and present, at the 'Learning Without Limits' conference. Together they celebrated the achievements of the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, which has hit a 20-year milestone of inclusive education.



TCPID graduates Sabh Feehan, Stephen Ryan and Niamh Biddulph with Minister Simon Harris

"The best thing about being a college student is the independence and the way that I can decide for my own life," said **Emma McGrath**, one of the many students who attended the conference on Friday October 27th.

The 'Learning Without Limits' conference saw TCPID students and graduates join Minister Simon Harris, as well as staff from Trinity College

Dublin's School of Education and community supporters, to reflect on what a truly inclusive college experience looks like.

Based in Trinity's School of Education, the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities has grown from a pilot project in 2004 to become a national and international leader in inclusive education.

Congratulating TCPID on its 20th year of promoting inclusive education, **Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science**, said:

"It is wonderful to be celebrating TCPID's ground breaking role in Irish inclusive education over the past two decades. The work everyone does in TCPID is invaluable. I am so heartened to hear of the incredible success stories of its graduates. I want to pay particular tribute to the Trinity Centre for creating such an inclusive space that fully recognises the rights of students with intellectual disabilities. **Since 2004 TCPID has set the standard for what can be achieved when we break down barriers and offer equal educational opportunities for all.**

"As Minister for Further and Higher Education my job is to make sure that no matter who you are, where you come from and no matter what your passion is, you can achieve it. Many students and families still feel that education is beyond their reach. **I am so determined that everyone gets the opportunity they deserve when it comes to education.**

"By establishing the Inclusive National Higher Education Forum, TCPID is fostering the development inclusive education courses in colleges and universities across Ireland. I am proud that my department has recently launched the 'PATH 4 Phase 2' – a three-year pilot to support an enhancement of course provision for students with intellectual disabilities, with a substantial investment of €9 million over the next three years. This is a crucial step toward ensuring that students with



intellectual disabilities have access to high-quality education programmes similar to TCPID's Certificate in Arts, Science, and Inclusive Practice.”



TCPID graduates Stephen Ryan, Conor Dunne, Niamh Biddulph and Sábh Feehan

A highlight of the event was the conversation salons hosted by TCPID students and graduates focusing on three themes – **academic experience**, **college life experience**, and **pathways to opportunity after college**.

Tomás Murphy, graduate and board member of Inclusion Ireland commented: “When you’re a graduate of Trinity you feel really positive. You can highlight the course, telling people about how great it is for people with intellectual disabilities to have the chance to come to college. More colleges should do this and give people an opportunity.”



TCPID graduate Tomás Murphy

TCPID’s flagship course, the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice, is a best-practice model of education that allows its students with intellectual disabilities to fulfil their potential through academic study, work placement and college life experience.



TCPID graduates Bobby Dolan and Heather Marshall with Professor Carmel O’Sullivan, Head of the School of Education



Professor Michael Shevlin, Director of the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, School of Education, Trinity, explained:

“At the heart of our mission lie our incredible students and graduates. They continually astound us with their unwavering determination and limitless potential. In the past these remarkable students might have been segregated from society but we now witness them thriving within Trinity and onwards into employment with our business partners. **In this journey we have learned that there aren't two separate worlds; there is just one world, and we can, and indeed should, all coexist harmoniously within it. Let this celebration remind us of the boundless possibilities that emerge when we break down barriers and foster inclusion for all.**”

“Today, as we gather to celebrate the remarkable journey of the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, it's essential to recognise the pioneering spirit of individuals like PJ Drudy, Freida Finlay, Alan Crosbie, Mary Davis, and Patricia O'Brien, among others, whose tireless work in the early days, two decades ago, set the foundation for what we now proudly stand for. Their dedication and vision have been the guiding lights in our mission.”

Deirdre Mortell, CEO of Rethink Ireland, which is supporting today's event, added: “Through our Growth Fund we back the best social innovations that can scale their solutions to improve the lives of people across the country. TCPID have shown what can be done to create a truly inclusive education experience, and through the formation of the Inclusive National Higher Education Forum and their work shaping policy and practice, **we believe we will achieve a future where young people with intellectual disabilities have the same education opportunities as anyone else.**”



Deirdre Mortell, CEO of Rethink Ireland



Minister Harris with staff, students and graduates of the TCPID and the School of Education, along with Fergus and Frieda Finlay and PJ Drudy



Annual TCPID Business Partners Meeting

We had our annual TCPID Business Partners meeting in the **Trinity Long Room Hub in Trinity College Dublin** on Thursday November 30th. It was a fantastic morning, working with you to share knowledge and experiences with each other.

TCPID Occupational Therapist Emer Murphy, along with two **4th year TCD Occupational Therapy students, Molly Gallagher and Lisa Gallagher** delivered a wonderful presentation about working with and supporting people with intellectual disabilities in the workplace.



Emer Murphy, Kelly O'Sullivan, Patrick O'Rourke, Amy-Jayne Shrahan, Marie Devitt and Hugo MacNeill



TCPID Business Partners working in groups with students



TCPID Business Partners working in groups with students



Following the Occupational Therapy presentation, the TCPID Business Partners were then divided into groups to use the information to instruct and support a TCPID student to complete a sample task. Thank you to the amazing 2nd year students who volunteered to help us run this task with the business partners.

We had a fantastic discussion for the last hour of the meeting to reflect on the task and to explore ways for us to improve support for our students and graduates within the workplace.



TCPID Business Partners working in groups with students



TCPID Business Partners working in groups with students



Launch of EY Playbook: Engage, Enable. Empower

On Monday December 4th 2023, the TCPID joined **EY** to launch **Engage.Enable.Empower**, a practical guide for businesses interested in creating meaningful employment opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities. This guide is based upon insights and experiences from a wonderful 6 year partnership between the TCPID and EY.

Minister Simon Harris spoke at this very special event and highlighted the need for real and meaningful inclusion, in education and in employment.



Brenda Kealy, Marie Devitt, Emer Murphy, Jenny Banks and Des Aston

We enjoyed two wonderful panel discussions where the panellists reflected on their own experiences of inclusion. Our graduates **Stephen Ryan Benóg Brady Bates Margaret Turley and Mei Lin Yap** joined **Melissa Bosch Sorcha Greaves Brenda Kealy Colin Farquharson Anne Heraty Rod Macmanus Hugo MacNeill and Neil Byrne** on the two discussion panels.



Stephen Ryan, Marie Devitt and Benog Brady Bates



Margaret Turley with Minister Simon Harris

We are so proud of our 7 TCPID graduates who are now permanently employed in EY in various different roles, each matched to their own particular skills and interests. Our partnerships with EY and with our other TCPID business partners are helping to change the landscape for inclusive employment and to highlight the incredible Ability of people with intellectual disabilities.



Anne Heraty, Rod McManus, Neil Byrne and Hugo MacNeill



Aine and Margaret Turley



We are so looking forward to continue collaborating with all our partners to develop even more opportunities and to encourage all companies to recognise the value of real inclusion



Eavan Daly and Marie Devitt



Marie Devitt and Neil Byrne



Sharon Vize and Mei Lin Yap, Melissa Bosch Marie Devitt and Brenda Kealy

You can read the EY Playbook here:
https://www.ey.com/en_ie/engage-enable-empower



Student Work Placements

Our 2nd year students are currently doing their work placements with our TCPID Business Partners. This year we had the biggest class group yet to find placements for, so we are so grateful to all the partners who have taken on one of our students. The feedback from all the students has been so positive already and they are really enjoying the experience.





Graduate Internships

In addition to our student placements, we also currently have 16 internships in progress and more due to start within the next couple of months. We have internships currently underway in the following companies (some with more than one intern):





Trinity College Dublin
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The University of Dublin

We also had some internships that have just finished within the last couple of months with:



WILLIAM FRY



As always, we are incredibly grateful for your support in providing these wonderful internship opportunities for our graduates.



Permanent Roles

We are thrilled that four more of our graduates have received permanent contracts over the past few months

Bobby Dolan - Arthur Cox



Bobby Dolan surrounded by his Arthur Cox colleagues

From Bobby

I really like working here because it is a big change from being in Trinity. Getting a permanent job at Arthur Cox is amazing. I wasn't expecting it at all.

From Bobby's Colleagues

"We are delighted to confirm that our TCPID graduate Bobby Dolan has just received a permanent contract working as part of the Executive Assistance team in Arthur Cox and specifically with the Corporate M&A team. Bobby started with Arthur Cox late April 2023 and has fitted in so well, we decided to end the internship early and offer him a permanent contract. Bobby has been a great addition to the team and firm and we look forward to what the future has in store for him."

Claire Fitzmaurice

HR Business Partner

"Bobby is a breath of fresh air around the office and is always on hand to help his colleagues"

Roanne Conroy

Practice Administrator, Corporate M&A

ARTHUR COX



Dúalta Callan - Grant Thornton



Dúalta Callan proudly standing outside the Grant Thornton office

From Dúalta

I started my internship at Grant Thornton on the 7th of March 2022.

I was a little nervous, but I was made very welcome and shown what to do. I also had a tour around Grant Thornton, and I soon made friends with my colleagues.

In the beginning, I was working three days but on my third contract I was working 4 days and I was very happy because 4 days at home were too much. The pay is very good, and I get paid on the 25th of every month.

In December 2022 I went to the Christmas party in the Mansion House. I was able to bring my sister with me which made it easier for me to mix with other people. It was brilliant I met a lot of people and they chatted with me, we danced and had fun. I also went to their summer party and felt I was part of the team.

I was very happy when I got a permanent contract because I didn't have to worry about what would happen after 6 months. Now I can plan, buy theatre tickets, pay for my own flights for holidays, and save for a house and a car. I can treat my mom and my dad as they looked after me since I was born.

I am so happy I went to TCPID which was brilliant and met Marie who has made my dream come true. I am very happy I met people who have become friends on the 5th floor and got this permanent contract. I am now working as an administrator with HR and facilities and will help in IT and finance when needed.

From Dúalta's Manager

"Dúalta is an absolute pleasure to work with and we are so delighted to have the opportunity to work with him and have him on the team.

Lisa Ward

Director, Head of Premises & Facilities



From Dúalta's Parents

“We are absolutely delighted Dúalta has got a permanent contract with Grant Thornton. He loves it there and they are so good to him. We couldn't be happier.

Dúalta has wanted this so much and we are absolutely delighted about it and grateful to the TCPID team and Grant Thornton.

We couldn't have imagined this 23 years ago when Dúalta arrived!

Of all the things done for individuals with disabilities I think meaningful employment is the most important and best thing. It provides dignity and anchors the individual in the world. Not having to constantly think and worry about the next course/placement etc allows them to look at the wider world, consider how they can contribute and provides space to thrive. It puts them on a par with other family members and earns them respect in society.

It allows parents to breathe and takes away the constant niggle of worry around what next for our son. It is a great source of pride for us. It allows us to concentrate on helping Dúalta develop other aspects of his life. In particular we want Dúalta to look at ways he can contribute and help others.”



Grant Thornton



Ciara Daly - EY



Ciara Daly proudly standing outside EY

From Ciara

I'm so happy to have been made permanent in EY.

I like working in EY because I love all the people in the office.

They help me with my work and have shown me how to get good at Excel and timesheets. Eve is a very nice, kind and supportive mentor.

I really enjoy my work and look forward to my days in the office.

I like going for lunch with my colleagues in EY. I have met lots of new people at work.

Getting a permanent job at EY means so much to me because I like working there and now I can stay and learn more skills. I feel very confident and proud of myself.

From Ciara's Colleagues

“Ciara has done some really exceptional work over the last year in EY and has since been made permanent. Ciara is always willing to try new challenges and is such a happy, positive person. We are lucky to have her on our team!”

Eve Long

Senior Manager, IOI Assurance

“Ciara has been a very welcome addition to the team. She is a very curious and cheerful individual who has adapted very well to a professional environment. She has applied herself to all tasks given to her and is always willing to do what is needed and it made our decision to give her a permanent role very easy.”

Nicola Burke

Director, IOI Assurance Operations



From Ciara's Parents

Firstly thanks to you and all the team at TCPID for organising Ciara's internship with EY. Your planning ensured that Ciara was a "good fit" for EY.

Ciara enjoyed working at EY from day one. She was welcomed warmly and worked hard.

On an ongoing basis, we received positive feedback via Emer. The regular meetings with Emer were very helpful for Ciara.

We were beyond delighted when she was offered a permanent position. It was very emotional news to receive and we are incredibly proud of Ciara.

It just takes one person to recognise and develop the potential of a person with an intellectual disability and we are so grateful that Eve & EY recognised Ciara's potential.

We applaud EY on their commitment to TCPID.





Liam Foley - The National Lottery



Liam Foley surrounded by his National Lottery colleagues in his graduation day in Trinity College Dublin

From Liam

I am thrilled to have a permanent job. I enjoy being part of a team and working with the HR team in the National Lottery. One of my favourite duties is organising events. I organised a wheelchair basketball event at the Irish Wheelchair Association in Clontarf which was a big success. I also set up meeting rooms and do internal interview meetings.

I get on well with everyone on the HR team and thanks to Audrey, Liz and Niamh for all their support. I was really delighted when all the team came to see me before my Graduation ceremony in Trinity last week.

From Liam's Colleagues

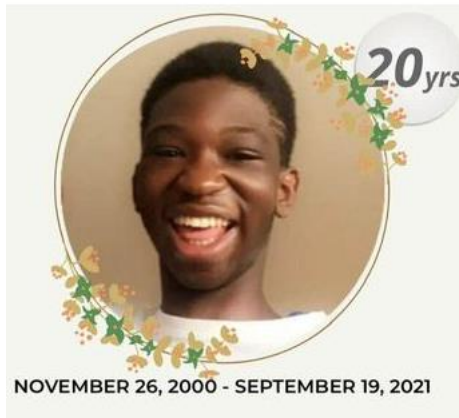


- It is our greatest pleasure to welcome Liam to the Premier Lotteries Ireland Team, where he contributes in so many ways to the business every day.
- Every day is a learning day when Liam is on your team, he provides fresh perspectives, wonderful insights, new approaches, and a world of kindness to everyone he meets.
- Liam's biggest contribution to date is by leading the internal People Spotlight project where he has interviewed different colleagues across the business. These stories have been shared across our intranet which allowed everyone to learn more about each other, connecting us more on a personal level.
- In 2023, Liam led our initiative to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities where we partnered with the International Wheelchair Association for a wheelchair basketball match. This gave us a glimpse into the lived experience of wheelchair users which we would not have had if not for Liam.
- It has been a joy to have Liam part of the HR team for the past few months, and we are delighted to provide Liam a permanent contract to continue having a positive impact on our business.



Launch of the Timothy Dimka Scholarship, sponsored by Smurfit Kappa

On Thursday August 31st the **Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr. Linda Doyle** launched the **Timothy Dimka scholarship** in the TCPID. This scholarship is being **sponsored by our TCPID Business Partner Smurfit Kappa**.



Timothy Dimka

Timothy Dimka was a student of the Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice from September 2020 until he very sadly passed away in September 2021. He successfully passed the first year of the course after completing the full academic year remotely during the Covid pandemic.

Timothy attended orientation for 2nd year on campus in September 2021 with the rest of his class and got to meet all his classmates and the TCPID team in person for the very first time. He very sadly passed away

unexpectedly a few days later, just before the new academic year started. We all feel blessed that we got to meet with him and chat to him on orientation day.

Timothy was a wonderful young man who had such a positive impact on everyone who he met. Having this new scholarship in his name is a beautiful way to remember him.

Smurfit Kappa have been a business partner of the TCPID since August 2019. They provide annual funding for the programme, as well as student work placements, graduate internships, student workshops and other supports.

In 2023, Smurfit Kappa offered to fund a scholarship programme for the TCPID. It was proposed to them to name the scholarship programme in memory of Timothy and they were very happy to agree to this. There will be an annual scholarship for one student every year.



Elaine Hayes and Miriam O'Connor from Smurfit Kappa with some of Timothy's family



We also had the opportunity to celebrate two other TCPID scholarship programmes at the event. The **Margaret McLoughlin scholarship** and the new **Provost scholarship**.



Margaret McLoughlin

The McLoughlin family have been huge supporters of the TCPID for many years. Their support has been in memory of their daughter / sister Margaret who very sadly passed away 20 years ago. Margaret had a real enthusiasm for education and for art, so their support for the TCPID is very personal and very meaningful for the family. The McLoughlin family set up the TCPID Art Education Space in 2017 and then the Margaret McLoughlin TCPID scholarship in 2020. This scholarship programme provides one new scholarship every year.

The McLoughlin family had the opportunity to meet with some of their scholarship recipients at the event and to remember Margaret in a special way in her 20th anniversary year.



Margaret McLoughlin's family with 3 of their scholarship recipients, Trinity College Dublin Provost Linda Doyle and some of the TCPID team

The Provost has also generously set up a new scholarship programme for our students which will provide a scholarship for one student every year.

This event was a very special opportunity for us to thank all of our sponsors of the three fantastic scholarship programmes. It also allowed us to remember and celebrate Timothy, along with all his family and his classmates. Timothy made such a big impact on all of our lives in the short time that we knew him and we will never forget him.



New Collaborations

We are delighted to announce that four new partners have joined our network over the past few months.

BDO Ireland

BDO Ireland specialise in delivering Audit, Tax, Advisory, Consulting, and People Advisory services to Irish and International clients. With global expertise and local excellence, we pride ourselves on providing tailored solutions that speak to the unique needs of each client.

But what really sets them apart is their “People helping People” culture.



Speaking about the new partnership, **Aisling O Fiachain, Talent Acquisition Assistant Manager in BDO Ireland** said, " *We're thrilled to support the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, embodying our values of care, collaboration, and inclusivity.*

This partnership isn't just about providing professional development opportunities; it's about fostering a culture of empowerment and integration in society. We believe in the unique talents and perspectives of every individual, and we're dedicated to creating an environment where everyone can thrive.

By embracing diversity and championing inclusivity, we're not only enriching our own team but also contributing to a more vibrant and compassionate society. Together with Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, we're excited to embark on this journey of growth, learning, and mutual support.

At BDO Ireland, we're more than just a professional services firm—we're people partners in progress. We hope many more companies and individuals will join us in building a better future for all."



Microsoft

Microsoft's mission is to empower every person and every organisation on the planet to achieve more and the company lives out this mission every day through its engagement with businesses, government, partners, non-profit organisations, the start-up ecosystem, and society as a whole. Since establishing a presence in Ireland in 1985, Microsoft Ireland has grown and evolved significantly. The company now employs over 3,500 people representing 95 different nationalities across a variety of roles including Data centre design and operations, Software development, Field and Digital sales, Marketing, Operations, Finance and HR.

Joanne Morrissey, Senior HR Director Microsoft Ireland said: *"We are delighted to collaborate with the Trinity Centre for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability. At Microsoft, diversity and inclusion is central to our mission to empower every person and organisation to achieve more, but our mission will only be fulfilled when everyone is included. Together with Microsoft's Dream Space education team, we look forward to collaborating with TCPID on this important programme, welcoming the participating students for their work placements at Microsoft Ireland, and supporting them to develop the digital and soft skills that are necessary for the workplace. We hope that our collaboration with TCPID will positively contribute to and influence the future employability of people with intellectual disabilities."*





Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Ryanair

Ryanair is Europe's Largest Low-cost airline carrying 168m customers last year, with over 3,000 flights per day to 240 airports in over 40 countries.



Speaking about the new partnership **Darrell Hughes, Chief People Officer in Ryanair** said:

"We are delighted to announce our partnership with Trinity Centre for people with Intellectual Disabilities. At Ryanair we celebrate our diverse workforce, with over 22,000 people from over 70 different nationalities speaking over 45 languages. Our involvement in this programme will help promote and support equal opportunities, inclusivity, and diversity in our workforce. "



John Sisk & Sons Ltd.

Sisk is an innovative, international, construction and engineering business with a long-term vision, employing over 2,000 people across Ireland, the United Kingdom and mainland Europe. Founded 165 years ago, this year, Sisk has always placed huge emphasis on delivering projects that enhance communities and supporting young people in their career with training and personal development.



Established 1859

Sean Fitzpatrick, HR Director, John Sisk & Son said, *"We are delighted to collaborate with the Trinity Centre for People with an Intellectual Disability and we look forward to collaborating with TCPID on this important programme. Our purpose as a business is to create places for future generations. We take inspiration from our founder John Sisk, who was driven by a keen sense of public service through the early projects that were delivered by the business - schools, libraries, churches etc. Throughout our history, we have created legacies within the communities where we work and we want to continue to have a positive impact on future generations to come."*



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Thank you as always to all of our Business Patrons, Business Partners and other collaborators for your continued support





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