Inspiring Generations – The Campaign for Trinity

*Inspiring Generations*, the first comprehensive philanthropic campaign in Trinity’s history, was launched in the Public Theatre in Front Square on 2nd May 2019.

The largest philanthropic campaign ever launched on the island of Ireland, and the fourth largest of its kind in Europe, *Inspiring Generations* has two key goals: to raise €400m in philanthropic donations and to inspire 150,000 volunteering hours from alumni and friends of Trinity around the world.

Ever since Dublin Corporation granted the College lands in the 1590s, Trinity has survived and thrived with the help of supporters who believed in the fundamental importance of Ireland having a world-class university as a centre of independent learning.

*Inspiring Generations* is a new departure; it’s the first time that Trinity has launched a global public philanthropic campaign. In today’s highly competitive global environment, the top universities are supported by a strong philanthropic culture. If Trinity is to maintain excellence in education and research and continue to represent Ireland as a leading university on the world stage, we need to harness the enormous goodwill that exists among alumni and friends to create our own committed philanthropic community.
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The University was hugely supported in the planning and execution of *Inspiring Generations* by the Provost’s Council, a group of supporters with diverse life experiences and now living in many countries, who give strategic advice to the Provost and the College Board. Established in 2015, the Provost’s Council now counts 52 members who remain closely involved with the Campaign.

At Campaign launch events in Dublin, London, Paris, New York and San Francisco, alumni and friends of Trinity heard from the Provost and leading Trinity academics about why philanthropy and volunteering are so important to the University and the positive impact that *Inspiring Generations* will have across Trinity. Provost’s Council members and volunteers also spoke about why they choose to give both their time and financial support.

Financial donations supplement other income and enable the University to leverage additional funding from other sources including the State, research grants and bank loans. Donations also play a crucial part in enabling Trinity to attract brilliant people and give them the freedom to do research with potential to yield world-changing results. The valuable time and expertise given by volunteers supports many activities, both on campus and across our worldwide network of 70 alumni branches.

From scholarships and mentoring of talented students to the funding of Professorships or cutting-edge research projects, the support of our donors and volunteers means that Trinity can do many things that would not otherwise be possible.

*Inspiring Generations* will support a range of flagship initiatives including a critically-important plan to conserve and redevelop the Old Library and its precious collections; the Trinity St James’s Cancer Institute that in September 2019 achieved Ireland’s first Cancer Centre accreditation from the Organisation for European Cancer Institutes; and the landmark E3 initiative that will bring engineers, computer scientists and natural scientists together to work on engineering and scientific solutions for a sustainable world.

Everyone studying and working in Trinity will benefit from the positive impact of *Inspiring Generations*. The ‘New Generations’ programme will expand scholarships, support new academic posts that will attract the brilliant educators and researchers who are the lifeblood of the University, and build on the success of two Trinity pioneers: Trinity Access, now a world leader in widening access to third-level education, and Science Gallery Dublin, which shares the impact of Trinity research with a wide public audience through compelling exhibitions and events.
People have different motivations for supporting Trinity: some are proud of how Trinity represents Ireland and recognise that innovative role Trinity is playing in advancing Ireland’s economic and social development; others want to support particular areas of research like cancer or sustainable living, or to develop education in their own fields. Many alumni support student clubs and societies in ways that would have made a big difference to themselves as students, whether through scholarships, a grant to a society, career mentoring or offering financial support to the Trinity sports stars of today.

What all Trinity’s donors and supporters have in common is that they want to make a positive difference to the world. Inspiring Generations speaks to students, alumni and friends of Trinity about how, by joining together in support of the University, they can achieve that. For students, the Campaign creates an awareness that their connection to the university is lifelong, something that will sustain them long after they graduate; for the 121,000 alumni in 150 countries, the Campaign is a reminder to stay connected and join the local alumni branch community; for all friends of Trinity, in Ireland and around the world, joining the Campaign helps them enable Trinity to inspire many generations into the future.

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