

“Students Give back in Recession Beating Initiative”

The Localise Community Service Learning Programme brings DIT students out of their classrooms into the community to help the most vulnerable

Dublin, Ireland, 22nd April 09 - 60 College students at the Dublin Institute of Technology are being honored for the community Service work they carried within Dublin’s North and South inner city communities. On Monday the 27th of April at 7.00pm in DIT Bolton Street Campus the Students who are all involved in the Localise Community Service learning programme will receive certificates from the guest of honor, Former Taoiseach Mr. Bertie Ahern T.D.

The event begins with a showcase of all the community Service work that the students participated in and will highlight a particular Localise programme which was run as part of the curriculum with students from the DIT Bolton St. campus. Twenty four 3rd year Manufacturing and Design Engineering students used their professional skills and expertise to carry out essential design and modification work for the Rutland Adventure Sports Project based in the Rutland Street School in North Dublin inner city. “Groups that operate in the voluntary sector where resources and expertise is in short supply can only gain from their involvement with Localise - DIT community Service”. James O’Callaghan Co-ordinator of ASP project Rutland St Dublin 1.

Peace Corps - Localise has been running programmes with DIT students since 2007 on a voluntary basis, but this is the first time a programme was run within the curriculum setting. Robert Simpson, DIT Head of Department of Manufacturing Engineering, said that the aim of this pilot was to provide students with “real world” problems, work in teams, implement design methodologies, that they learn in the classroom from first concepts, manufacturing the solution, to installation & commissioning and to experience dealing with real people from the local community and our aim for the future is to continue with similar projects in the future. The work the students did was fully credited as part of their Design and Team Building module.

“The Localise Community Service Learning Programme enables students to make genuine lasting contribution to their locality by using their skills and talents in the service of others - our aim is to enable students to become caring professionals - pro-active citizens and community leaders of the future” - Derek Cleary, Director of Services for Peace Corps Localise. The college students from DIT Mountjoy Square, Kevin Street and Aungier Street were involved in an array of different community service projects with Elderly Care Centres in the Dublin area such as the Whitefriar Street Church Elderly Club, the Meath Street and the Iveagh Trust centres, as well as two projects with the North William Street Primary School for Girls and a fundraising event for Canteen (teenagers with cancer).