

AONTAS
The National Adult
Learning Organisation
Presents

The
STAR
Awards
2010

as part of the AONTAS
Adult Learners' Festival 2010
22 February 2010





List of Contents

A Message from AONTAS Director, Berni Brady	3
STAR Gazing – About the STAR Awards	4
Speakers & Entertainment	5
The STAR Awards Judging Panel	7
STAR Award Recipients	8
STAR’s on the Rise – Nominated Projects	18

A Message from AONTAS Director, Berni Brady

When AONTAS launched its first Adult Learners' Festival in 2007 we could not have anticipated how important it would become as a means of promoting the wonderful work carried out in the adult and community education sector in Ireland. Now in its fourth year, the Festival has become a signature event in the adult and community education calendar.

Despite the challenges presented by the current recession the adult and community education community has once more stepped up to the plate and contributed 110 nominations for the prestigious STAR awards. At the Awards Ceremony which is the opening event of a very exciting Festival week the winners in thirteen different categories will be presented with their awards. Unlike the past three years award winners will not be named until the actual ceremony so there is already a great frisson of excitement among the shortlisted projects.

Again this year the nominations have highlighted the vast range and variety of education and training across the country and the high level of commitment, creativity and motivation of adult learners and providers. AONTAS is very proud of the achievements of everyone involved and we congratulate not only the winners but everyone who has taken part in the competition.

The work of the judging panel is always challenging as they inevitably have to make difficult decisions in deciding upon award winners so we owe them a big debt of gratitude for their time, which they give to AONTAS on a voluntary basis, their experience and commitment and most of all their objectivity. We thank you most sincerely for this.

Over the last four years we have worked hard to build up strong partnerships with organisations and bodies that have a deep interest in and a strong commitment to lifelong learning. The support of our sponsors is crucial to the success of the Festival Week, in particular that of the Further Education Section of the Department of Education and the Minister for Lifelong Learning, Mr Sean Haughey who has been with us every step of the way. We would also like to thank FETAC, ICTU, ASTI, TUI and Bluebrick.ie for their invaluable sponsorship and support this year. Other organisations which have supported this year's event in different ways include the VECs, The Small Firms Association, Grow it Yourself Ireland, An Comhairle Leabhairlanna and ENFO.

Finally the STAR Awards Ceremony is first and foremost a celebration of learning and so we invite you all to take the time and space to enjoy it. **Berni Brady, Director, AONTAS**



STAR Gazing – About the STAR Awards

The STAR Awards Ceremony is about showcasing teamwork and awarding recognition – it's about acknowledging the fantastic work undertaken by adult learning projects throughout the country. Most of all, it is about celebrating the positive contribution that these projects make to our society, our economy and our local communities.

Nominations came from adult learning organisations, community and voluntary groups, the business sector, government agencies, statutory bodies and NGOs. Thirteen awards are being made in total – to projects working within Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Dublin, Connaught and throughout Ireland both in the local community and in the wider county and province. STAR Awards will also be awarded in the Workplace Learning, Projects in Progress and Once Off Initiatives categories following their successful introduction for the STAR Awards 2009.

Nominated projects were requested to demonstrate the following criteria:

- A high level of teamwork and partnership amongst participant groups
- A learner centred approach to education provision
- Adult education practice and methodologies

Today, the thirteen winning projects received their STAR Awards. The STAR Awards have been awarded for outstanding, learner centred adult and community education projects which demonstrate high levels of collaboration amongst participant groups. The learning involved has included learning for personal fulfilment, social change, active citizenship, skills development, community development and other related fields. The awards have highlighted and supported the collaborative learning approach which is vital to developing healthy and vibrant communities.

Speakers & Entertainment

Marian Duffy, AONTAS President

Originally from Co. Donegal, Marian received her early education in Co. Fermanagh and Co. Donegal. She obtained a B.A. and H. Dip in Education from University College, Galway in 1974 & 75 consecutively. Her early background in educational delivery is that of a secondary teacher who also worked extensively in primary education. Marian joined Co. Carlow VEC in 1991 as Adult Literacy Organiser, went on to work as both ALO and VTOS Co-ordinator from 1994. She went on to become Community Education Facilitator in 2003 and became Adult Education Officer with Co. Carlow VEC in 2004. Marian joined the AONTAS Executive in 2005, and was elected President in May 2008.

Berni Brady, AONTAS Director


Berni Brady, B.A., M.Ed, has been Director of AONTAS, the National Adult learning Organisation since 1993. She is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast and the National University of Ireland/Maynooth. She has worked in the area of adult education for 30 years. Before taking up her position as Director of AONTAS, she worked as Director of the Dublin Adult Literacy Scheme for 13 years. She was a founder member of the National Adult Literacy Agency and during her career has campaigned consistently for the right of adults to learn and for governments to invest adult and community education.

Sean Haughey TD, Minister for Lifelong Learning

Seán is a full-time public representative. He was born and reared on Dublin's Northside and educated at St. Paul's College, Raheny. He is a graduate of Trinity College with a B.A. in Economics and Politics. Seán is a former Senator and was Lord Mayor of Dublin from 1989- 1990. He has been a member of the Dáil since 1992 and is a former Senator. He was Chairman of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment, Heritage & Local Government from 2004-2006. Seán has been a Minister of State at the Department of Education & Science since December 2006. He has Special Responsibility for Lifelong Learning, Educational Disadvantage & School Transport. Since June 2007 he has also been a Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment.

Orla Barry, Newstalk Broadcaster

Orla hails from Bishopstown in Cork and is a graduate of UCC. She began her career as Editor and Outreach worker with "Body Positive", a magazine for a HIV-AIDS support organisation before moving



into broadcasting with East Coast Radio and later as a news reporter in South East Radio in Wexford. Orla joined Radio Kerry in 2000 and over a three-year period presented and produced a number of programmes including the station's flagship talk show "Kerry Today" and the afternoon show "Barrytime". Orla has been presenting on Newstalk since April 2003.

The Discovery Gospel Choir

Formed in 2004, Discovery Gospel Choir is now one of Ireland's most exciting intercultural choral groups, with members from Ireland, Botswana, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, China, England, France, Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria, Poland, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The choir is based in St George and St Thomas's Church of Ireland church, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin 1 and has a strong ethos of reconciliation, development and integration. In promoting this ethos, the choir has performed for the MAMA Awards, for the President of Burundi, in Mosney Asylum Centre, in Dublin Castle for Africa Day, in Mountjoy Prison and for Sinn Fein's Gerry Kelly and the DUP leader Revd Dr Ian Paisley in Parliament Buildings at Stormont, Belfast.

The STAR Awards Judging Panel

The STAR Award's Judging Panel represents a broad range of interests within the sector, and also draws on expertise from academia, workplace learning as well as the learner's perspective. Nominations were allocated to three smaller judging panels within this group of sixteen, in order to make the process of judging projects run smoothly and quickly.

Judging Panel 1

Categories include: Local / Community Reach: Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Dublin

Chair: Maureen Kavanagh was appointed CEO of Active Retirement Ireland in April 2008. Prior to this, Maureen worked in a management position with AONTAS. She became involved in the area of adult education and community work in 1986 firstly as a volunteer. Having participated in a wide range of learning opportunities over the past twenty years, Maureen holds a Masters in Adult and Community Education from National University of Ireland Maynooth.

Dr Ted Fleming is Senior Lecturer in Adult and Community Education at Maynooth. He was previously Adult Education Organiser for County Louth and is now Director of the Centre for Research in Adult Learning and Education at Maynooth. Ted is a member of the Editorial Board of The Adult Learner since 1995 and was a member of the AONTAS Executive in the 1980s.

Vivienne Glanville's involvement in community education began when she undertook a personal development course in a local women's group Ronanstown CDP. She started a Certificate course in Women's Studies in 1999. Vivienne she has just completed her Masters and is currently Co-ordinator of Ronanstown Community Development Project.

Helen Keogh is National Co-ordinator of VTOS (Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme). She is a member of national and international committees on adult learning. She has been actively at all levels in the development of the European Commission's Grundtvig programme since 2000. She was a member of the advisory groups that produced the European Commission's Communications on adult learning in 2006 and 2007 and is currently a member of a follow-up Focus Group on analysing national reforms in education. She is author of the recent report for the UNESCO Regional CONFINTEA VI preparatory Conference for Europe, North America and Israel held in Budapest, December 2008.

Sarah McNerney works with FÁS, the National Training and Employment Authority and is based in their Head Office as part of the Employment Services Support Unit. Sarah is a representative from FÁS on the

Advisory Group to Pilot Projects on Adult Education Guidance Initiative. Prior to joining FÁS, Sarah has been a member of Macra Na Feirme which is a rural youth voluntary organisation. She is currently the President of Kildare Macra Na Feirme and has been a member of the organisation for over 13 years.

Donal Walsh is the Community Education Facilitator in the City of Galway VEC since 2003. The community education programme has about 1300 learners annually and works closely with over 70 community and voluntary groups throughout the city. The Community Education service provides grants to community education groups, supports a community education network and delivers a Diploma in Community Development (Community Education).

Judging Panel 2

Categories include: Regional Reach: Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Dublin. Local and Regional Connaught

Chair: Dr Liam Bane worked as an Adult Education Organiser with Co. Dublin Vocational Education Committee from 1980 until his retirement in 2003. During that time, he established the first journal of adult and community education in Ireland, the Adult Learner which is still published annually by AONTAS. He served as editor of this journal until 2003.

Claire Byrne is the Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications with the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland. She has worked with the Qualifications Authority since its establishment in 2001. She has responsibility for the management, development and implementation of all key corporate functions. Her role extends to include the promotion of the National Framework of Qualifications to achieve a widely known, understood, used and valued qualifications framework both nationally and internationally.

Edna Jordan is Head of Workplace Learning and Development at the National Centre for Partnership and Performance. Edna joined the NCPP in 2002. Prior to this, she was a senior official at the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO), with responsibility for the delivery of its Professional Development and Training programme. She holds an MBS in Management and Organisational Studies.

Bernie McDonnell has worked for Pobal for the past eight years, initially as National Education Coordinator with the Local Development Social Inclusion programme, and latterly as Programme Manager for the Equality Programmes in Pobal. Bernie is a Board member of the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education and of Familiscope – a community-based organisation offering early childhood care and education services to children and parents in Ballyfermot.

Dr Richard Thorn is currently on secondment from his position of President of the Institute of technology

in Sligo and is running national projects on flexible learning and research. He is EURASHE's representative on the Expert Advisory Group for the EU's Multidisciplinary Global University Ranking project. He has held teaching/ research and management posts in Dublin Institute of Technology, Trinity College Dublin, Institute of Technology, Sligo and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) and has held visiting lectureships in Coventry and Middlesex Universities.

Judging Panel 3

Categories include: Nationwide, Once Off Initiatives, Projects in Progress and Workplace Learning

Chair: Ann Devlin has recently retired as the Training Officer with Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM). She represented FETAC on the judging panel, having had a long association with FETAC through her work with BIM. As well as having worked in the adult learning sector, Ann is also a keen participant in adult education courses herself and has taken part in various night courses down through the years.

Bill Halliden is former Director of Union Learning with the Union Skills Network, supported by ICTU (Irish Congress of Trade Unions). He is currently Head of HR and Training at the Irish League of Credit Unions. Bill represents ICTU on the Judging Panel.

Kevin Hurley is a former Director of Adult Education at UCD and an individual member of AONTAS. He is a former tutor, coordinator of the Return to Learning Programme and Facilitator of the Quality Framework at the Adult Learning Centre, Dun Laoghaire VEC and a VSO Volunteer in the higher education sector. Kevin is currently a PhD candidate, researching adult education as a site for equality at the Department of Equality Studies, UCD.

Avine McNally is Assistant Director with the Small Firms Association. The Small Firms Association (SFA) is the national organisation exclusively representing the needs of small enterprises (i.e. those employing less than 50 employees) in Ireland. With over 8,000 member companies nationwide the SFA provides dedicated professional support and offers an unparalleled range of services to members, including economic, commercial, employee relations and social affairs advice and assistance.

Eithne Ni Dhonnchadha is Adult Education Officer with Co. Galway VEC. She is Hon Secretary of the Adult Education Officer's Association and is a member of the AONTAS Executive. Eithne was a teacher for 16 years with Co. Dublin VEC and held a number of adult learning posts including VTOS Director and Community Education Facilitator with Co. Galway VEC. Eithne is a member of the RAPID Board, Ballinasloe, Galway Childcare Committee, Galway Rural Development Committee (Education Sub Committee) and the County Learning Forum.

STAR Award Recipients

Local Ulster

Winner: First Steps Women's Centre (FSWC)

First Steps Women's Centre (FSWC) is an organisation based in Dungannon, Co Tyrone offering a wide range of training to all women within the local area and also as far afield as Clogher and Fivemiletown. Since its establishment 1998, "First Steps Women's Centre" has been a beacon of hope and support for many women in Dungannon. Programmes are developed in consultation with the local community and aim to build confidence, well being and friendships as well as developing academic skills. The Centre's success is also exemplified by statistics from their courses and feedback from centre users. Since the commencement of courses for the September 2008 academic year FSWC have achieved retention rates of between 80% and 100% for all their courses, with pass rates on average of over 95%.

Highly Commended: Women's TEC

The aim of the Women's TEC project is to upskill women aged 16+ years & raise awareness and provide non-traditional skills training which will engage women to consider employment.

Shortlist: ATLAS Women's Centre

Local Munster

Winner: Downtown Centre

Established in 2007, the Downtown Centre is an access, guidance and support centre for adults who are seeking to progress to higher education. The Centre is a collaborative initiative of the Shannon Consortium partners – the University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, Mary Immaculate College and the Institute of Technology Tralee – and is funded by the Higher Education Authority Strategic Innovation Fund, Cycle One. The Centre aims to attract a diversity of applicants to higher education by providing a small, welcoming and accessible environment in which adults can seek information and guidance on progressing to third-level education and can attend information seminars and workshops to support them in making their decision about their third-level learning options.

Highly Commended: Scarriff Community Garden Project

The Garden Project aimed to create a community space where those from all walks of life, with an interest in gardening could work collectively and learn the necessary skills to promote community and to develop a community garden.

Shortlist: Ennis CDP Parent Support Programme

Local Leinster

Winner: Revamp Training Project

The Revamp Project is a non-profit making furniture recycling and reuse project established in 2002 as a social enterprise to reduce waste and provide training for young people from a welfare dependent background. It is a tailor made programme providing a mixture of learning and manual work devised by FAS and the Department of Social and Family Affairs in conjunction with the Longford Employment, Development and Information Centre. The 48 week course, accredited by FETAC involved personal development, information technology, literacy and numeracy as well as three practical subjects: upholstery, woodwork and tiling. Through the Revamp Furniture Store, which was established following the success of the project, quality furniture is provided at affordable prices, demonstrating the multiple benefits of reuse and recycling. Over 70% of the trainees have progressed into full time employment, apprenticeships or further education or training.

Highly Commended: The 5 to 6 Womens' Art Project

The 5 to 6 Womens' Art Project is a community development programme for the benefit of socioeconomic disadvantaged women and women who feel isolated or marginalised in Kilkenny City and County. It provides support and arts education activities, encouraging life long learning.

Shortlist: South West Wexford CDP Education and Training Centre

Local Dublin

Winner: RADE Ltd. Recovery through Art, Drama and Education

RADE was established in August 2004 with a dual function to be an innovative high quality arts project and an effective intervention programme aimed at helping drug users. Participants come from a variety of backgrounds, levels of addiction and illness. The programme engages recovering drug users in arts activities by working with their inherent creativity to use it as a resource to promote positive change. Through working with professional artists towards public productions the programme competes in an active way with the passive stimulation experienced by drug taking and helps to promote self education, confidence and self esteem. Working in Dublin 8, RADE seeks to enable participants to broaden horizons by engaging in cultural pursuits as an alternative to drug use.

Highly Commended: Degree Programme in Leadership & Community Development

The Degree Programme in Leadership & Community Development was developed by An Cosán, based in West Tallaght and IT Carlow. Many of the students are early school leavers, from disadvantaged, marginalised and/or minority backgrounds. All of the students work in either a paid or voluntary capacity in the local community.

Shortlist: Get Cents

Regional Ulster

Winner: Women's Health & Well Being Programme

Over the past eighteen months Donegal Women's Network, (DWN) in partnership with the Women's Health Development Officer (WHDO) HSE West, have designed, developed and delivered a Women's Health and Well Being Programme (WHWB). It provides opportunities for women with a wide variety of experience, both lived and professional, to learn together about working with groups. As they acquire the skills and knowledge to fulfill their commitment to the project, they themselves learn and grow together. This project availed of the experience of women who were first-time adult learners alongside those with professional qualifications. Some of the women are already pursuing further studies. During this training the women connected on a personal level with each other and brought the fruits of their learning to the much wider community of women as adult learners in Donegal. This programme is now being rolled out in County Sligo and it is envisaged that it will also be delivered in County Leitrim.

Highly Commended: Co Monaghan High Support Process (HSP)

The main objective of Co Monaghan HSP is to adapt a multi-agency approach to implementing supports/interventions to enable marginalised clients to overcome barriers and progress into education, training and/or employment.

Shortlist: Leadership for Change

Regional Munster

Winner: National Learning Network, Focus Programme

The Focus programme was the result of a review of Mental Health Services carried out by National Learning Network and the HSE which recommended (1) an increase in the number of rehabilitative training places within the mental

health service and (2) exploration of innovative rehabilitative training initiatives. The aim of this programme is to empower participants with mental ill health to avail of opportunities to enhance their personal development, community integration, vocational orientation and physical and mental well-being. The design of the programme strives to provide and deliver a meaningful and holistic service to people with mental ill health in their own community. The Focus Programme endeavors to improve the quality of its participants' life through social interventions leading to greater inclusion, integration and destigmatisation. The project is based in Raheen in Limerick

Highly Commended: The Grotto Learning Project

The Grotto Learning Project is an adult education project based in the Childers Road Halting Site in Limerick. In January 2009, it was suggested by learners that they work on Our Lady's Grotto on-site which was built some 16 years previous and was the worst for wear after years of exposure to the elements. The initiative lead to increased levels of enthusiasm amongst participants.

Shortlist: Return to Education Gardening Project

Regional Leinster

Winner: Co. Longford Adult Educational Guidance Service

Co. Longford Adult Educational Guidance Service was established in 2001. The aim of Co. Longford Adult Educational Guidance Service is to provide a professional and comprehensive educational guidance service to adults returning to education and training. Although the service was initially set up to work with specific target groups namely Adult Literacy, VTOS, BTEI, Community Education and clients from the Education Finance Board, the Guidance Service identified gaps in provision and expanded its service to embrace learners who were presenting themselves to other key agencies in search of direction and guidance. These clients include long-term unemployed, lone parents, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, and represent the most marginalised and socially excluded in the county. Co. Longford Adult Educational Guidance Service recognises that education is a very powerful tool in combating poverty, social exclusion, and disadvantage. The guidance service plays a pivotal role in enabling and empowering adult learners to access educational opportunities, both locally and nationally.

Highly Commended: The Six Book Challenge

The Six Book Challenge is an initiative introduced in 2008 by the Reading Agency in the UK. Kilkenny County Library registered to take part in the challenge with the aim of involving reluctant adult readers with their local library.

Shortlist: Carlow Rural Information Services Project (CRISP)

Regional Dublin

Winner: Soilse Career Guidance Service

The aim of the Soilse Career Guidance Service is to facilitate participants in planning future careers, provide career guidance, and in turn help participants to address obstacles to progression. Participants in Soilse all come from a drug addiction background, having experienced extreme forms of social exclusion, manifested by homelessness, criminal records, early school leaving, no work history, family breakdown and poor life expectancy. Soilse's career guidance staff are seconded by the CDVEC where the emphasis is on adult educational progression. The career guidance practitioners in Soilse operate as facilitators working in partnership with the learner, with shared power, where career goals are carefully designed by offering explanation, guidance, counsel, critique and encouragement. Soilse was established in 1992.

Highly Commended: Open Learning Centre

Established in 1986 as part of the Central Library, The Open Learning Centre is a unique learning facility offering access to all regardless, of age, social status or ethnicity. It constitutes a unique, safe, organic learning environment, where people from 124 countries come to learn together. Courses are self learning, so students can learn at their own pace

Shortlist: Community Awareness of Drugs

Local & Regional Connaught

Winner: The Luisne Art Project

The Luisne Art Project was developed in 2005 by a group of Artists in collaboration with The Crann Mor Centre, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo. It is an Arts Disability Programme. The members of the Crann Mor centre meet at TACU Family Resource Centre, Ballinrobe for weekly facilitated workshops. The purpose of the programme has been to establish a long-term art project of quality, which responds to the talents and needs of the participants of the centre. It recognizes the importance of art and creativity as a positive and powerful force in the lives of the individuals. The philosophy of the project is underpinned by a belief in the equality and integration of people with disability in society. Since the project was established in 2005, 17 service users have taken part. The project is supported by a partnership between the Western Care Association and the Arts Office of Mayo County Council.

Highly Commended: Barrel Top Wagon Project

The Barrel Top Wagon Project is a multidisciplinary group endeavour which aims to construct to a high standard a traditional Traveller Barrel Top Wagon. It is run as part of the Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) under the County Galway VEC in partnership with The Western Traveller and Intercultural Development Association (WTIDA) based in the Bru Bhríde Centre in Tuam.

Shortlist: Ballybane Gals

Nationwide or All Island Reach

Winner: Open Training College - BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability)

The BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability) is offered to adult learners' nationwide working in the disability sector. It is founded on a three-way collaborative approach between the Open Training College, the employing agency and the student, which supports the application of learning in the workplace. The course is extremely flexible and is open to any student who is part-time, full-time or volunteering in an agency. The aim of the degree course is to upskill those staff members working in disability agencies nationwide so that they can learn best practices and affect positive change on the ground that in turn directly helps people with disabilities, their families and the larger community. The course is designed in a way that helps adult learners to return to education in the most comfortable, accessible and supportive manner. It's an open learning course which is HETAC accredited and offers adult learners the option of completing the course at their own pace and at a time that suits them.

Highly Commended: ARI "Train the Trainers" (IT Skills) – IT Training Scheme for Active Retirement Ireland Members

ARI Train the Trainers (IT Skills) is an initiative for retired people throughout the Republic of Ireland. Participants receive hands-on instruction from ComputerGym in a Mobile Computer Lab in one location in each of Active Retirement Ireland's Regions.

Shortlist: GIY Ireland

Once Off Initiatives

Winner : "How to Learn English in Ireland?" Four Part Community Radio Documentary Series

"How to Learn English in Ireland?" is a four part community radio documentary series designed to offer a practical 'road map' for learning English as a second language in Ireland and throw light on the practical

steps people can take to learn the English language. The project gave a great insight into the practical advice, support and encouragement Irish people can offer someone who is learning English or struggling to communicate in the English language. The radio series was a collaborative project produced by Dublin South FM Community Radio Station in association with County Laois VEC, County Dublin VEC and City of Dublin VEC. Project participants included ESOL learners attending English classes throughout the participating VEC's. The radio series features interviews with people who are learning English as a Second language (ESOL Learners) and numerous Irish contributors. Everybody who participated in interviews did so voluntarily and gave willingly of their time.

Highly Commended: Women Together Community Education Calendar

The Community Education calendar project involves eleven women's community education groups from around Galway City who have each taken a photograph for the calendar that represents their identity as a group. All proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go to COPE Waterside House.

Shortlist: "Go for It" Promotional Film for Men in Adult Education

Projects in Progress

Winner: Song for All

The 'Song for All' project is a partnership between the Carlow Education and Training Centre, a Senior Traveller Training Centre, and the University of Limerick. The project aims to provide a programme of study for members of the Traveller community to further both their musical education and their personal development. Two learners from the Centre have received much local acclaim for their singing and this prompted the Centre to explore different possibilities into how it might be possible to develop both their musical talents and at the same time encourage their formal educational development. Following intensive discussions with the Carlow Education & Training Centre, the learners and the University of Limerick offered the learners a place on the Certificate in Music and Dance, after they had successfully passed an audition, and the Centre provided the pastoral and academic support for the learners to be able to study this course whilst based in Carlow and without them having to leave their community.

Highly Commended: Blended Learning Project

Co. Meath VEC Adult Basic Education Service in conjunction with NALA, helped pilot a Blended Learning project, which provided the opportunity for centre-based learners to achieve FETAC Level 2 accreditation through on-line assessment using the new NALA Writeon.ie website.

Shortlist: Getting Started

Workplace Learning Initiatives

Winner: National Certificate in Butchering Skills

The National Certificate in Butchering Skills (NCBS) is the first national qualification for butchers in the history of the state. It comprises of eight modules, four of which were developed by Associated Craft Butchers of Ireland. All are individually FETAC certified and together constitute the NCBS. The team at ACBI strives to put young and old butchers through a dedicated programme that will lead to certification. Each learner receives individual attention from their dedicated assessor. Assessors are all ex butchers, who have owned businesses themselves and they want to see candidates thrive through learning on the job and mentoring. The National Certificate in Butchering Skills was established in 2005 and its first graduates graduated in 2009.

Highly Commended: Cater Pass (FETAC III Food & Nutrition Accreditation)

The Catering & Hospitality Skillnet is a non-profit organisation funded through the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment, established for the benefit of Catering & Hospitality Industries Nationwide. During the development phase of the Skillnet tremendous emphasis was made with plotting the path for designing and creating Cater Pass.

Shortlist: Union Learning Representatives Network

STAR's on the Rise – All Nominated Projects

Local Ulster

- A Study Of Education And Training Needs And Barriers To Participation In The Three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas Of Craigavon
- ATLAS Women's Centre
- Create aLink/Artco
- Creative Dance and Movement
- Energy Awareness Training
- Women's TEC
- First Steps Women's Centre
- Learning for Living Players
- Out of Loop (Computers into Homes)
- Shared City Project
- Rosses Community Development Project

Local Munster

- ACCESS I.T. LTD.
- Computers for the Petrified
- Cork City Adult Guidance Service
- Downtown Centre
- Dungarvan Community Development Project
- Ennis CDP Parent Support Programme
- Scarriff Community Garden Project
- SENI Mentoring Programme

Local Leinster

- Culture Diversity Programme
- DATA Project

- Droichead Nua Resource Centre/Empowering Senior Citizens in the World of Technology
- Give it a Go
- Growing in Gorey
- INSPIRE
- Irish Wheelchair Association
- Kickstart 18-25
- Mountmellick Pre-Employment Programme
- Personal Care and Development
- Revamp Training Project
- South West Wexford CDP Education and Training Centre
- The 5 to 6 Womens' Art Project
- The Mullingar Links Project
- Wexford Arts Centre- Adult Learning Visual Art programme

Local Dublin

- Ballyfermot & Clondalkin Healthy Food Made Easy Projects
- Bawnogue Women's Development Co. Ltd
- Crumlin CDP Seniors
- Degree Programme in Leadership & Community Development
- Get Cents
- Glor na nGael
- Pitman Training
- Publishing a Newsletter
- RADE (Recovery through Art, Drama and Education)
- Rialto Community Network Failte Isteach
- TARGET LINK Project
- The Get Ahead Club
- the WEB Project
- Voyages Programme

Local & Regional Connaught

- ALa
- Bally bane Gals

- Barrel Top Wagon Project
- Burning Bright
- The Luisne Art Project
- The Mayo Association Football League CE Scheme

Regional Ulster

- Co Monaghan High Support Process (HSP)
- Leadership for Change
- Women's Health & Well Being Programme

Regional Munster

- Foundation Certificate for Mature Students
- National Learning Network, Focus Programme
- Return to Education Gardening Project
- The Grotto Learning project
- Waterford Professional Development Portfolio & Portfolio Building Course for Childcare Practitioners

Regional Leinster

- 4WORD
- Carlow Rural Information Services Project (CRISP)
- Co. Longford Adult Educational Guidance Service
- Data Processing Programme
- Person Centred Planning
- The Six Book Challenge

Regional Dublin

- Community Awareness of Drugs
- Culture Night
- Open Learning Centre
- Soilse Career Guidance Service

Nationwide & All Island


- 'Changing Ireland' – 'Visiting Prison for the First Time video series' and associated resource material
- ARI Train the Trainers (IT Skills - IT Training Scheme for Active Retirement Ireland Members
- Attract and Retain
- Open Training College - BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability)
- CELT Heritage Skills Training Programme for Sustainable Living
- GIY Ireland
- Irish Performing Arts Festival
- Le Croi Og (Young at Heart) Intergenerational Learning Project
- Living Well with Arthritis
- Moyle Road Volunteer Project
- S@niors Project - The Digital Engagement of Senior Citizens
- START

Once Off Initiatives

- "Go For It" Promo film for men in Adult Ed
- "How to Learn English in Ireland?" Four Part Community Radio Documentary Series
- Creative Ageing in Donegal
- Culture & Abilities 2010
- Is Mise Eire -CPLN Area Partnership
- 'Trash Art' Art Exhibition 2009
- Women Together Community Education Calendar

Projects in Progress

- 'Protecting Our Community- A Call to Action!' - the Road Safety Authority Community Road Safety Programme
- Armchair Aerobics
- Blended Learning Project
- Clare DEAL (Development Education in Adult Learning)
- English Language Provision for Training & Employment

- 
- Getting Started
 - Jigsaw Project
 - Men Making the Mould
 - New Futures
 - Older Persons Adviser Course
 - Song For All
 - Unheard Voices

Workplace Learning Initiatives

- Cater Pass (FETAC III Food & Nutrition Accreditation)
- FETAC Level 5 Certificate in Healthcare Support
- Kevin Dempsey Distributors - Human Resource Development Programme
- Leonardo Mobility 2009
- National Certificate in Butchering Skills
- South West Healthcare Skillnet
- Union Learning Representatives Network





AONTAS - The National Adult Learning Organisation

Second Floor, 83 - 87 Main Street, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Ireland

Ph: 01 4068220 Fax: 01 4068227 Email: mail@aontas.com Web: www.aontas.com

Chy. Reg: 6719 Co Reg: 80958

The Adult Learners' Festival is kindly sponsored by

