**Media release**

**Monday, 23 April 2018**

**DIT COMPUTING GRADUATES IN TALENT SHOWCASE FOR IRELAND’S BOOMING TECHNOLOGY SECTOR**

* **Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O’Connor T.D launches prize giving ceremony for DIT Computing students attended by over 100 industry professionals.**

Over 100 industry representatives from Ireland’s booming technology sector gathered in DIT Kevin Street last Thursday for the Institute’s School of Computing annual Project Fair. The event, which featured a keynote address from the Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O’Connor T.D, showcased the very best technological developments produced by DIT students this year, including projects in Internet of Things, Data Analytics and security applications. For the seventh year running, Ocuco, the leading Software Solutions Provider in the Optical industry, was the primary sponsor for the event.

58 students from three Undergraduate Computer Science programmes showcased their work to compete for a number of industry-sponsored prizes in a room overflowing with captivated IT experts. Examples of projects on show included a predictive tool for players of Fantasy Football, a Maths Learning app for students with learning difficulties, and an app to help anxiety sufferers track their moods and symptoms to help build a picture of the daily stresses which could trigger their anxiety attacks.

Launching the award ceremony, **Minister Mary Mitchell O’Connor T.D.** congratulated all students participating in the Project Fair and said it was exciting to see the next generation of Ireland’s tech talent begin their careers. “The high calibre of work displayed by students of Computer Science in DIT today is remarkable, as is the range of projects they have developed. Having witnessed the ability and dedication of these undergraduates first-hand, I am confident that Ireland’s technology sector will continue to flourish in the hands of this accomplished group of students.”

Welcoming Minister Mary Mitchell O’Connor T.D to DIT Kevin Street, the President of DIT, **Professor Brian Norton** agreed that the standard of work on show was hugely impressive this year. “What particularly impressed me today was the interdisciplinary nature of many of the projects on display. Our Computer Science graduates certainly have the technical expertise required to succeed in the Technology sector, but they also leave DIT with the skills needed to work well in many other sectors.”

Speaking at the event on Thursday, **Dr Deirdre Lillis**, Head, School of Computing explained how the holistic learning environment offered by DIT prepares graduates for a career in the ever-changing software sector. “This year’s graduate cohort will join a thriving, innovative sector and will help copper-fasten Ireland’s reputation as the Silicon Valley of Europe. What sets DIT apart is our links with industry, which complements our focus on practice-based learning, and our students are prepared for the working world through opportunities such as today’s Project Fair.”

Continuing **Dr Lillis** said, "We were delighted to welcome over 100 industry delegates to DIT Kevin Street today, and I would like to thank our sponsors, Ocuco, for their continuing support. We would also like to thank our award sponsors S.A.P, DIT Hothouse, Fidelity Investments, Bearing Point, HubLinked, Salesforce and Liberty IT for their kind support.”

This year’s overall prize winner Andrew Cosgrave Lyons won for his project AutoArcher – An investigation and implementation of automatic archery arrow scoring. Other prize recipients at the Project Fair 2018 included the following:

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| **Sponsor** | **Category** | **Recipient(s)** | **Project Title** |
| Ocuco | Best Overall Project | Andrew Cosgrave Lyons | AutoArcher |
| S.A.P | Luan O’Carroll Innovation Award Project | Katie Fitzgerald | Anxiety Manager |
| DIT Hothouse | Most Commercialisable Project | Padraig McCarthy | Student Helper |
| Fidelity Investments | Most Innovative Software Engineering Project | Vlad Zat | MongoStratus |
| Bearing Point | Best Communicator | Amandeep Singh | Mathemagic |
| Salesforce | Most Original Project | Cillian McCabe | Travel Assist |
| HubLinked | CSI4 Award | Jelo Salomon | Lung Cancer Detection Using Deep Convolutional Networks |
| Liberty IT | Best User Engagement | Dale O’Shea | My Dives |
| DIT School of Computing | Project with the Most Socially Engagement Technology | Daire Grimes | Multi-Factor Authentication System |

**-ENDS-**

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**Notes to editor:**

**About the School of Computing at DIT**

The DIT School of Computing is a leading provider of practical education and research in Ireland ranging from Higher Certificate delivery right through to postdoctoral researcher training. The School has a 20-year history in DIT Kevin Street and will relocate to DIT Grangegorman before the beginning of the academic year in 2020.

The school currently offers five undergraduate degree programmes in Computer Science, Computer Science Infrastructure, Computer Science International, as well as part-time and full-time delivery of the BSc in Information Systems & Information Technology. At postgraduate level, the School is a leading provider of Higher Diploma and Taught MSc degrees in Computer Science related topics including Data Analytics, Security, and Advanced Software Development. The current enrolment of students – including research students – is approximately 1000 students, making the School of Computing one of the largest schools of its type in Ireland.

In the past five years, the School has also become a major research contributor to Computer Science in Ireland. Staff have secured funding from high-profile national research agencies such as Science Foundation Ireland, the Irish Research Council and Enterprise Ireland, and are currently partners on large-scale national research centres including CeADAR, ADAPT, and Connect. Research within the School is organised around the Applied Intelligence Research Centre, with research students based both in the main Kevin Street campus and also in the FOCAS Institute located nearby on Camden Row. <http://www.dit.ie/computing/>

**Dublin Institute of Technology**

At Dublin Institute of Technology, innovation is our tradition, and we have produced generations of leaders in a range of fields from science and health; business; law; computing; tourism & hospitality; the creative & visual arts to engineering & the built environment. Our lively City-Centre campuses, including our new research and innovation hub at Grangegorman, are home to more than 20,000 students from Ireland and abroad, creating a culturally diverse and stimulating learning and research environment.

DIT will soon join forces with IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown to form a Technological University catering for the Greater Dublin Region and beyond. Three physical campuses and a fourth digital campus will create an incomparable institution of higher learning offering wide-ranging opportunities to many more generations of leaders in the years to come. [www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie)