At DCU Educational Trust, we are passionate about the power of higher education to transform lives and societies and we believe great things are possible when philanthropy combines with a young, dynamic and ambitious university like DCU.

Through our fundraising work, we aim to build meaningful partnerships with DCU’s supporters for today and for the future to further DCU’s mission to transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation and engagement.
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As we reflect on another successful year for DCU Educational Trust, I am once again struck by the powerful possibilities created when philanthropy combines with a young, dynamic and ambitious university like DCU.

The impressive impact of our strong relationships with DCU’s supporters was evident at the opening of The U, a new €15 million state-of-the-art student centre in September 2018, and in the launch of our exciting new Access to the Workplace Programme, working with over 38 leading Irish companies. Thanks to a generous philanthropic donation, DCU also launched Teachers Inspire in May 2019, the first ever national initiative to recognise the transformative role of teachers and the enormous contribution they make in Irish society.

I hope that you enjoy reading about these and the many other pioneering initiatives in this report that have been made possible through the generosity of our supporters this year.

Larry Quinn,
Chair,
DCU Educational Trust

In 2018 - 2019, DCU’s friends and supporters continued to play a significant role in enabling DCU to fulfil our mission to transform lives and societies through education, research, innovation and engagement.

Nowhere is the importance of our external partners clearer than in the success of Shaping the Future: The Campaign for DCU. As we launched the Campaign in 2015, we recognised the need to work with individuals and organisations who shared our ambition to address the major challenges facing the world today and our desire to develop the talent and knowledge that society needs.

This year we were proud to announce that the Campaign has already raised over €75 million for projects to transform the lives of the students who pass through our doors and to develop innovative responses to the challenges we contend with in a rapidly evolving world.

On behalf of the University, I would like to thank DCU’s friends and alumni for their role in making our ambitious vision and mission possible.

Professor Brian MacCraith,
President,
Dublin City University
Shaping the Future – The Campaign for DCU

Shaping the Future – The Campaign for DCU was launched in October 2015 with the aim of raising €100 million to support a range of inspiring DCU projects to address the major challenges that face society today.

In 2019, we marked an important milestone when the total funds raised through the Campaign reached over €75 million. This impressive figure attests to the enthusiasm of DCU’s partners to provide funding for innovative and enterprising projects to transform the lives of DCU students, to translate knowledge into positive impact and to engage with communities in new and creative ways.

From improving equality of access to higher education through support for DCU’s Access Programme, to enabling cutting-edge research on topics such as early childhood education and data analytics, DCU’s supporters have made an enormous contribution to society in Ireland and around the world.
Transforming student lives:
— Over €5.5 million donated to support Access scholarships at DCU
— Support for 210 athletes annually through the DCU Sports Academy
— The U, DCU’s new €15 million, state-of-the-art student centre opened in 2018

Translating knowledge into positive impact:
— 3 academic Chairs created including the Desmond Chair in Early Childhood Education, the Prometric Chair in Assessment and the AIB Chair in Data Analytics
— €3.8 million secured for the Global India Education Training Network led by DCU’s Ireland India Institute
— Over €14 million leveraged for research into issues of global significance by DCU Water Institute, DCU Institute for Future Media and Journalism and DCU Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction

Engaging with communities:
— 55 members of the Age Friendly University Network, founded and led by DCU
— Two ANAM cultural showcases hosted across DCU’s North Dublin campuses to lay the foundations for a North Dublin Cultural Quarter
— Teachers Inspire, the first major national initiative to recognise the transformative impact of teachers, created thanks to a generous philanthropic donation

University of Enterprise:
— Over €2 million invested to support Irish family businesses through the DCU National Centre for Family Business
— 44 student entrepreneur teams supported through the UStart student accelerator programme
Our supporters made a big impact in 2018 - 2019

- 412 teachers nominated for their transformative impact through Teachers Inspire Ireland
- 210 athletes supported by DCU Sports Academy
- 137 publications by DCU Brexit Institute
- 13 memorial scholarships awarded
- €79,000 pledged by DCU alumni during annual telethon to raise funds for Access scholarships
- 3 sensory pods installed to create quiet zones for students with autism on DCU campuses
- 1,258 Access students supported
97% Access graduates achieved a higher honours degree

800 Post-primary schools to receive anti-bullying and online safety training through new partnership with Facebook

1st Winner of the inaugural Student Sport Ireland College of the Year Award

38 Companies participated in the new DCU Access to the Workplace initiative, providing summer work placements for 50 Access students

140 Attendees at DCU National Centre for Family Business annual conference

2nd ANAM cultural showcase for North Dublin

350 Attendees at DCU moot court competitions

13 Disadvantaged Dublin schools supported through Write to Read project
“The supporters of DCU’s Access Programme have helped to change my future and also inspired me to help others and give back to my community. I hope that one day, I will be able to help others to achieve their goals as DCU’s supporters have helped me to achieve mine.”

Sean Trimble, DCU Business Studies student, 2nd year
Transforming student lives
An equal opportunity for all students to reach their full potential

At DCU, we have a strong tradition of creating equality of access for students from under-represented groups in higher education. Since its establishment in 1990, our Access Programme has supported over 3,800 students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue their dream of a higher education. Our supporters play an important role in ensuring that all students with the ability and ambition to progress to third level education can do so, regardless of their background. DCU’s Access Programme begins by working with students in linked DEIS (disadvantaged) schools in North Dublin, from primary level upwards, to encourage young people to consider third level education as a viable option.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to provide 1,258 DCU Access students with critical scholarship supports in 2018 - 2019. This is vital to enable students to cope with the additional financial burden which entering university presents. DCU Access students also receive a range of personal and academic supports to enable them to thrive and excel in their studies once here.

DCU Access – 2018 in Numbers

- 320 NEW FIRST YEAR STUDENTS
- 252 GRADUATES
- 97% GRADUATES ACHIEVED HIGHER HONOURS DEGREE
“I have lived all my life in Ballymun and always had my heart set on going to DCU. My mum is a single parent who worked very hard to support my family, but her education level has often held her back. She left school after her Junior Certificate and, for most of my life, she worked as a cleaner in another university. As I watched her struggle to put food on the table and provide for us all, I decided that I wanted an easier life in the future.

I was lucky to benefit from a targeted support for promising students in my secondary school, which provided extra supports to help me progress to third level education. This help included Irish grinds, as higher level Irish was not offered in my school.

Finances were always a big issue growing up, but my Access scholarship really helped to relieve the financial pressure of starting college. When I was 16, my mum suffered an injury that meant she could no longer work. So, even with my scholarship supports, I still needed to get a job during college to support myself and contribute at home. In second year, I was struggling with my coding modules and I thought about dropping out, but when I thought of all the people who had invested in me through my scholarship, I really didn’t want to let them down. My Access Officer helped to get me back on track and to realise I needed to do a postgraduate course with a greater business focus. I was over the moon when I was accepted onto my master’s this year. I had been working 20 hours per week during college and setting as much as I could aside, but there was still a huge gap to be paid. Without my CRH scholarship, I would have had to defer my place for at least another year.

I am very glad that I have had to struggle and work hard to get to where I am today – it has given me a good head on my shoulders. I am also so thankful for the support of the donors to DCU’s Access Programme - supports like this are crucial to enable determined young people, without the financial backing they need, to succeed.”
This year we launched an exciting new Access to the Workplace Programme to provide DCU Access students with high quality work experience in established workplaces during their summer break. Access to the Workplace is an additional opportunity for Access students in the second year of their studies, and was developed through a collaboration between DCU’s Access Service and DCU Educational Trust.

The first year of the initiative was a huge success with 50 Access students benefitting from a quality work placement, hosted by over 38 leading Irish companies participating in the pilot year.

“We are delighted to be a partner of DCU’s new Access to the Workplace Programme. We were involved in delivering a work-readiness module for the participating students this year and were very impressed by their level of engagement. The energetic and ambitious students that we met would be an excellent addition to any workplace.”

Brian Leonard, Partner with PwC

“Many of our Access students rely on summer employment to save for the upcoming academic year. By offering these meaningful work placements, DCU’s supporters can enable our students to not only generate a modest income but also to prepare for working in a professional environment and to gain experience in their chosen field.”

Cathy McLoughlin, Head of DCU Access Service
Each company participating in Access to the Workplace is also a supporter of Access scholarships at DCU. We are truly grateful to our supporters for their investment and belief in the students whose studies they support, and for their enthusiasm to provide additional opportunities to prepare these students for the workplace:

- AIB
- AIG
- Allergan
- Altech
- AON
- Britvic
- CAE Parc Aviation
- Citrix
- CityJet
- Codex
- Colgate Palmolive
- Colleen Construction
- County Monaghan Fund
- CRH Group
- daa
- EirGrid
- Fenergo
- Highfield Healthcare
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Irish Distillers
- Mastercard
- Matheson
- Matthews Coach Hire
- McGarrell Reilly
- McGettigan Hotel Group
- McKeon Group
- Mondelez
- National Recruitment Federation
- National Treasury Management Agency
- Neogen
- Oracle
- Pigsback.com
- PwC
- Siemens
- Verizon
- Vodafone
- William Fry
- Willis Towers Watson
Each spring we remember past students, staff and friends of DCU at our annual memorial scholarship ceremony. This year, 13 students were presented with memorial scholarship awards named in honour of 12 individuals who have played a key role in the life of the University.

Nine scholarships were presented to undergraduate students supported by DCU’s Access Programme. A further two scholarships were awarded to support students engaging in postgraduate research. The remaining two scholarships were awarded to students who displayed outstanding strength in the musical and sporting fields: Irish swimmer Brendan Hyland, who is hoping to qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, received the Paddy J Wright Memorial Scholarship, while Aidan Gray received the Dr Tim Mahony Memorial Scholarship for a student completing the BA in Contemporary Jazz and Musical Performance.

We are honoured to acknowledge the 2018 - 2019 Memorial Scholarship recipients:

— The Orla Benson Memorial Scholarship: Catherine Allen
— The Frank Durkan Memorial Scholarship: Niall Duffy
— The Charles J Haughey Memorial Scholarship: Sarah Healy
— The Aidan McDonnell Memorial Scholarship: Jack Pilcher
— The Ger McDonnell Memorial Scholarship: Eromonsele Penial Clements
— The Volkswagen Group Ireland - Stephen Moran Memorial Access Scholarship: Ryan Casey
— The Paddy Moriarty Memorial Scholarship: Sarah McDonald
— The TJ O’Driscoll Memorial Scholarship: James Regan
— The Dr Tim Mahony Memorial Scholarship: Aidan Gray
— The Nicola Radford Memorial Scholarship: Chloe Rooney
— The Paddy J Wright Memorial Scholarships: Oisín Mulhall Wallace & Brendan Hyland
— The Teresa Twohill Memorial Scholarship: Leah Riordan
I always enjoyed school as a child, I was a good student and I found it easy to make friends. I knew that I wanted to go to college from an early age and I received great support from my teachers to pursue this goal.

However, life at home was not easy. My mother suffered from mental health issues and social workers had been involved in our life from an early age. At fifteen, I was put into foster care. I was lucky to be placed together with my sister, but my three brothers were placed in separate homes elsewhere.

I went to live with a lovely foster family who I stayed with until I finished my Leaving Certificate. Although this meant moving to a different area in Dublin, I was fortunately still able to stay in my secondary school. Life felt quite chaotic while this was happening and it was hard to focus, but I managed to settle down and focus on my schoolwork after a few months. My school knew I had a tough home life and they were always very good at giving me extra support.

I loved subjects like English and History in school, and a new subject called Politics and Society. When it came to thinking about college, my aftercare worker told me about options to support my education like SUSI grants and DCU’s Access Programme. I decided to apply to do a BA in Politics and Law at DCU and was delighted when I got the points I needed. There are many things that I want to change in Irish society and this seemed to be a good way to make an impact someday.

I have loved my course so far, it is amazing to focus on studying a subject that I am interested in. The supports from the Access programme have really helped me to settle in too. My scholarship has helped with my travel and living expenses and has enabled me to embrace college life.

I am so grateful for the support of my scholarship donors. The financial support is so important but it also made me feel good about myself to receive a named scholarship. The idea that I was worthy to be recognised and to honour the legacy of Teresa Twohill is a source of great pride for me.”
In 2018, the NTR Foundation announced a new partnership with DCU Educational Trust to offer two scholarship opportunities to enable recent Access graduates to undertake a new taught Master’s programme in DCU – the MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society. Joy Newton and Jessie Doyle, Access students and graduates of the BA in Communications and Multimedia courses respectively were selected as very worthy inaugural recipients.

Named in honour of the former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese and current Chancellor of DCU, Dr Martin McAleese, the McAleese Scholarships were established in 2014 to encourage Northern Ireland students to study at DCU. Catherine Kelly, who is studying the BA in Education and Katherine McLarnon, who is doing the BA in Politics, were the recipients of the 2018 - 2019 McAleese Scholarships.

Eoin Corcoran, a PhD candidate in Dublin City University’s School of Biotechnology, was awarded with the DCU Allergan Innovation Award for 2018 - 2019. The award, created by Allergan, one of the leading global life science companies in Ireland, provided Eoin with a bursary of €5,000 to further his research into the relationship between a sugar coating on our stem cells and the development of heart disease.

Finding a sweet solution for heart disease

Supporting Northern Ireland students

NTR Foundation supports future climate change leaders
Since its designation as Ireland’s first University of Sanctuary in 2016, DCU has continued to deliver a range of initiatives to welcome refugees and asylum seekers into the university community and to foster a culture of inclusion for all.

Central to this, is DCU’s commitment to provide scholarships to enable refugees and asylum seekers to participate in third level education. By the end of the 2018 - 2019 academic year, 21 University of Sanctuary students had been supported to study in DCU through a combination of seven on-campus undergraduate scholarships and 14 online scholarships with DCU Connected, the University’s online learning platform.

DCU’s supporters play a critical role in enabling the University to provide these truly transformative opportunities. In 2018 - 2019, our partners Siemens, Ornua and Aircastle announced their support for on-campus undergraduate scholarships whilst Vodafone and eBay continued to provide a package of supports for all University of Sanctuary students that includes laptops, mobile phones and other essential academic equipment.

“Although living in a direct provision centre was not easy, that did not stop me from wanting to pursue education. As a mother, I believe I have a duty to set an example for my children and this was part of my motivation. I wanted my children to see the importance of education and to understand that we are not defined by our circumstances.”

Sisa Bhebhe, University of Sanctuary undergraduate scholar
Creating quiet zones in the world’s first Autism-Friendly University

Following DCU’s designation as the world’s first Autism-Friendly University by AsIAm, the autism advocacy charity in 2018, we were proud to unveil three sensory pods in locations on each of DCU’s three academic campuses, which were generously donated by the Lions Clubs Ireland. The pods serve as designated quiet zones as part of DCU’s Autism-Friendly University initiative, allowing students on the autism spectrum to control their environment and de-stress in a calming space. By enabling students to manage their sensory environment if they are feeling overwhelmed, they can de-stress before returning to the busy pace of campus life.

Supporting DCU’s mooting tradition

Mooting forms an important part of the law student experience at DCU, providing students with a practical opportunity to put their study into practice and to develop their public speaking, presentation, advocacy and legal reasoning skills. With generous support from law firm Matheson, DCU hosted two significant mooting competitions in 2018 - 2019:

— The 2018 Matheson National Moot Court Competition took place at the Criminal Courts of Justice Complex in November 2018. Over 200 attendees were present as 27 teams from eight institutions in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK competed for the top prize. The final was judged by Supreme Court Judge Elizabeth Dunne, High Court Judge Tony O’Connor and Christine Simpson from Matheson and featured teams from DCU and UCD

— The 2019 Matheson Moot Court Grand Final in the Helix in March 2019. Over 150 DCU staff, students and alumni were present for the showcase moot on the theme of employers’ negligence

Winners of the 2019 Matheson Moot Court Grand Final.
New €15 million student centre opens

New and returning students to DCU’s Glasnevin Campus were greeted with a very welcome sight in September 2018 when ‘the U’, DCU’s new state-of-the-art student centre officially opened its doors. The space, which was formally opened by President Michael D. Higgins, is dedicated to enhancing the student experience at DCU and to preparing graduates to flourish in the 21st century.

Funded by donations from Bank of Ireland, the Tony Ryan Trust and DCU students, through a self-imposed levy, ‘the U’ houses a broad range of activities and support services, and serves the needs of DCU’s rapidly growing student community, now numbering over 17,000.

Key features of the centre include a Student Leadership and Life-Skills Centre, performing arts and cultural spaces for students and the wider community, an Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub for national and international student initiatives, and a Global Village celebrating the cultural diversity of the University, with more than 115 different nationalities represented in the student population.

It is estimated that, in the coming decade, over 50,000 students will avail of the facilities and services on offer at ‘the U.’

“The opening of ‘the U’ has already caused a monumental shift for the DCU student body and engagement has increased ten-fold. Club and society life has always been there, always thriving, but you had to seek it out. Now, you can’t miss it. Every single day, there is a myriad of weird and wonderful activities taking place, and there has been a noticeable increase in student engagement as a result.”

Vito Moloney Burke, President of DCU Students’ Union, 2018 - 2019
The DCU Sports Academy, supported by Bank of Ireland, assists young athletes to reach their potential in both academic and sporting fields. This year, the Academy supported 210 students to maintain high standards in their academic and sporting pursuits.

The 2018-2019 sporting calendar was an exciting one for the University with success both on and off the field demonstrating the impact of DCU’s investment in developing sporting talent:

— DCU was crowned the inaugural winner of the Student Sport Ireland Sports College of the Year. The title was awarded based on the results of teams in 18 different competitions and six different sports including rugby, volleyball, badminton, netball, karting and pool

— DCU had six students (past and present) and one coach, Martin Cunningham, represented at the 30th World University Games in Naples in summer 2019

— DCU continued to enjoy success across a number of clubs with silverware collected in GAA, athletics, archery, basketball, boxing, karate, handball, soccer, table tennis, sailing, swimming, tennis, volleyball, and weightlifting. Our Women’s Rugby team exceeded all expectations this year by winning the Kay Bowen Cup, as well as the Division 1 and 2 League titles

— DCU athletes Sophie Becker, Cillin Greene and Joseph Ojewumi made their senior international debuts at the European Indoor Athletics Championships in Glasgow in 2019

Cillin Greene competes in the Men’s 400m event during the European Indoor Athletics Championships.
“As a third level student, it can be hard to balance everything. You’re likely to have a part-time job, a demanding academic timetable, assignments, exams, training with your county, college and sometimes even your club. Finding time to balance everything can be a challenge.

Last year, I found I was falling behind in my Accounting module and I wanted to do something about it. A quick chat with Paul in the GAA Academy was all that was needed and before I knew it he had arranged accounting grinds for me.”

Laura McGinley, 3rd Year Marketing, Innovation and Technology student and captain of DCU’s O’Connor Shield winning team
Enabling research and innovation
Family businesses form the economic and social bedrock of Irish society, accounting for more than 70% of all firms, and contributing approximately 50% of Ireland's GDP and employment. However, family businesses face unique challenges to their long-term sustainability, which require particular attention.

Since its foundation in 2013, DCU’s National Centre for Family Business has established a strong reputation as a hub of expertise and advice for family firms. DCU’s supporters have played a key role in enabling the Centre to assist Irish family firms to address challenges such as generational succession, integration of family and non-family talent, inheritance and estate planning, growth and exports, and the role of entrepreneurship and innovation in family business success.

In 2018, we were pleased to announce that long-standing supporters AIB and PwC have extended their support for the Centre and have been joined by a new supporter in leading Irish commercial law firm, Beauchamps.

“The support of our partners AIB, Beauchamps and PwC will enable the National Centre for Family Business to develop new and very practical layers of support for Irish family firms.”

Dr Eric Clinton, Director, National Centre for Family Business, DCU
Irish family executives participated in research by Dr Catherine Faherty of the National Centre for Family Business into the dynamics of trust in family owned firms.

1ST PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION ON FAMILY BUSINESS INSTIGATED BY A DCU NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FAMILY BUSINESS WORKSHOP

1 Family Business Roadshow in Cork

3 PARTNERS EXTEND SUPPORT FOR CENTRE

406

1,000+ website visits per month

1,066 subscribers to DCU National Centre for Family Business e-zine

9 videos in a practical new Family Business Lessons Series launched in May 2019

140 attendees at annual conference on “Family Business Values – how they translate into business value”
Professor Tomás Ward was announced as the AIB Chair in Data Analytics in 2018. His appointment to this position, the first of its kind in Ireland, was made possible through the support of AIB who pledged five years of funding for the Chair, in addition to support to recruit a post-doctoral research fellow and a PhD student.

Since his appointment, Professor Ward has provided academic and research leadership in the area of data analytics at DCU, with a focus on the democratisation of technologies. In this piece, he explains how his research aims to enable individuals and businesses, in contexts outside of laboratory settings, to harness the potential of machine learning to better understand human behaviour and decision making.

1. What attracted you to the AIB Chair in Data Analytics position?

"First and foremost, I was attracted to the strong reputation of DCU’s School of Computing and its focus on impact in the real world. As a university that specifically calls out its vision to be a globally-significant University of Transformation and Enterprise, I knew that this commitment to industry-engagement and the discovery and translation of knowledge to impact on society, was a core value for DCU as a whole.

For me, the position was not only a move from Electronic Engineering into Computing but also a move out of the laboratory and into the real world. My previous research had been largely laboratory based and focused on machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) in the area of health. The AIB Chair position gave me a great opportunity to invest in an area that I have huge passion for – that of human behaviour, decision making and performance.

Joining DCU also offered me the prospect of collaborating with a team of exceptional colleagues in DCU’s School of Computing, and with colleagues in disciplines such as health and human performance and sensor technology in which DCU has a strong reputation."

2. What are the major research projects that you are currently focusing on?

"One of my main projects focuses on financial decision making and how this relates to an individual’s personality traits. We are using economic decision
making games that people play on their mobile phones to capture the decisions they make over time outside of a laboratory setting. We can then see how this evolves and how it compares with optimal decisions made by AI.

The reality is that people are not robots and our ability to make good decisions is influenced, by not only our personality type, but also the information that we have to hand and the timing; for example, we might make a very different decision on a calm Sunday morning compared to during a stressful Thursday afternoon in work.

I am also involved in an innovation partnership between DCU and the medtech company HealthBeacon to explore decision making in a very specific context - using AI to understand and predict how well a patient will adhere to their medication and treatment schedule.

Another project I am working on is commercialising a platform to enable researchers in clinical trials to rapidly design and deploy mobile applications to collect data on how patients are feeling. Traditionally this data is collected retrospectively through a survey, but pop-ups on our platform will enable researchers to ask these questions in context, for example, ‘How do you feel this morning?’ or ‘How is your joint pain after your walk?’

I am also the Co-Principal Investigator, together with Prof Brian Caulfield of UCD, on the Personal Sensing and Actuation strand of Insight 2, a €49 million investment by Science Foundation Ireland.

4. From co-founding and organising the annual Dublin Maker festival, to encouraging more young women to study STEM subjects in university, you are very busy outside of your research. How do you find the time to fit it all in?

“I guess I just pursue areas that I have a passion for, and that gives me great energy. With Dublin Maker, the invention, creativity and resourcefulness of the maker movement is something that continually inspires me. Whether it is a tech enthusiast or a crafter, I am keen to reconnect people with maker culture and physical living, using our hands to make things rather than just sitting and typing or tapping.

When it comes to encouraging more young women to study STEM subjects, I feel it is important to do what I can to bring about gender balance in my sector. Last year, I visited fourteen all-girls schools in DCU’s catchment area. It took some time but I hope that exposure to the exciting possibilities that a career in STEM can offer, and the impact that they could have on society, might inspire more young girls to consider this career path in the future.”
The management of water resources presents a significant geopolitical challenge, with the World Economic Forum consistently ranking water crises among the most important risks for the global economy in the coming decade. In Ireland, our freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity are under increasing pressure and we face critical decisions around water quality, water availability and flooding, and underinvestment in ageing infrastructure.

Since its establishment in 2013, DCU’s Water Institute has sought to address this significant global and national challenge, building upon a strong foundation of expertise in science, engineering and computer technologies at DCU. The Institute is a cross-faculty centre, with academic members from all five faculties of the University.

Support from DCU Educational Trust enabled the Institute to create a new Water Innovation Officer position in 2018 - 2019. This role has helped the Institute to expand its activities, develop new strategic partnerships, attract further industry partners and secure additional research funding.

Some highlights from 2018 - 2019 included:
— The launch of a new three-year strategic plan which sets out a clear roadmap for tackling the management of water resources
— A Laboratory of the Year Award at the annual Irish Laboratory Awards in recognition of the DCU Water Institute’s Engineering Laboratory’s world-class work to translate basic research in the water and environmental spheres to real engineering applications
Desmond Chair of Early Childhood Education:
It was a busy year for Professor Mathias Urban, which saw the launch of the Early Childhood Research Centre (ECRC) with Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone TD. The Centre aims to place Ireland at the centre of the global map of early childhood research.

Professor Urban and the ECRC also led on the development of the first and second early childhood policy brief for the Japanese presidency of the T20/G20 in 2018 and 2019, working in collaboration with CIPPEC (Argentina), Universidad Nacional (Colombia), and the African Early Childhood Network (AfECN). The policy briefs focus on early childhood in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and whole-systems approaches to reform.

In Ireland, Professor Urban supports the Government’s Workforce Development Plan for Early Childhood Education and Care as expert member of the high level steering group.

Prometric Chair in Assessment:
Prometric, a US-based provider of market-leading testing solutions, renewed their support for the Prometric Chair in Assessment in 2018. This sustained partnership will enable Professor Michael O’Leary to continue to lead the work of DCU’s Centre for Assessment, Research, Policy and Practice in Education (CARPE). The Centre works to enhance the practice of assessment across all levels of the educational system through high quality research, professional development and establishing global networks.

In 2018 - 2019, Professor O’Leary and CARPE contributed to the formulation of education policy in Ireland through the publication of significant reports on topics that included the use of standardised testing in English reading and Mathematics in Irish primary schools and the role of assessment in the revised primary curriculum and Leaving Certificate as a preparation for higher education.
In 2018 - 2019 Microsoft announced support for a new Student Teacher Digital Skills Project led by Professor Deirdre Butler in DCU’s Institute of Education. The project will prepare student teachers to think about digital transformation, to realise the importance of developing 21st Century learning skills, and to develop the ability to use computational thinking in the design of learning activities. Participating students will engage in practical, hands on learning modules which embed the use of maker code, Minecraft and Hour of Code.

This exciting partnership between Microsoft and DCU has potential to remove barriers which currently prevent many girls from pursuing STEM subjects such as computer science at second and third level.

By working with 460 final year Bachelor of Education students, it is estimated that the project will reach 7,000 primary school students in 2019.
Autism was first recognised as a distinct category of special educational need (SEN) in 1998. Since then, there has been a huge growth in specialist educational provision in Irish schools for students on the autism spectrum. However, academic capacity at master’s and doctoral level has not kept pace with the growing need for research and further postgraduate study for teachers in this area. In fact, some may be surprised to discover that 2019 is the first year when a specific Master’s in Autism Education will be available in an Irish university, through the DCU Institute of Education.

The vision and generosity of our supporters, Paul and Margaret Kerley, together with matched funding from KPMG, has enabled DCU’s School of Inclusive and Special Education to address this gap by offering scholarships at doctoral and master’s level. These scholarships will develop future leaders who will influence the approach to autism in the Irish education system through their contributions to research, policy, curriculum and practice.

The two recipients of the new PhD scholarships commenced their research in March 2019:
— Christina O’Keeffe’s research focuses on primary level and will explore the importance of play in enhancing the learning of pupils on the autism spectrum
— Finbar Horgan’s research focuses on post-primary level and will examine how student voice approaches can support the inclusion of pupils with autism in mainstream schools in Ireland

A further five teachers from primary, post-primary and special schools will commence the new Master’s in Autism Education in September 2019, with part-funded scholarships that enabled the School of Inclusive and Special Education to recruit the best candidates for the course.
In 2012, Deutsche Bank staff decided to support a little known literacy research project with a big aim - to improve literacy outcomes for children in disadvantaged schools and communities in Ireland.

The project, Write to Read, was inspired by award winning doctoral research by Dr Eithne Kennedy from DCU’s Institute of Education. This research had demonstrated that intensive professional development for teachers, and investment in literacy resources to enable teachers to implement a holistic, evidence-based literacy framework could dramatically improve literacy outcomes for children in disadvantaged schools.

With support from Deutsche Bank, Write to Read has expanded to become a cross-city literacy project that currently works with 13 disadvantaged schools in Dublin city. Thanks to the generosity of Deutsche Bank staff, Write to Read has provided a wealth of high quality books that have benefitted over 2,800 children in participating schools, while teachers in those schools have transformed their approach to literacy.

In May 2019, Write to Read was also announced as a winner of the Engage and Educate Fund, created by Social Innovation Fund Ireland in partnership with Mason Hayes & Curran and the Department of Rural and Community Development. The fund will enable Write to Read to expand its capacity to work with disadvantaged schools outside the greater Dublin area.
How has Write to Read changed the approach to literacy in your school?
“There have been huge changes in our school since the start of the project. Thanks to the whole-school approach, we now have a consistent approach to literacy in every classroom.

Another big change is the resources that we now have. Our library is packed with rich literature and you really couldn’t compare the choice that children now have in fiction and non-fiction texts! Each class has dozens of novels for their age group and there is a real culture of reading within our school, which is fantastic to see.

The introduction of a daily Writing Workshop has been another very positive development. With traditional approaches to literacy, children might pass an entire week without writing a story, limiting their opportunities to express themselves. In contrast, with Write to Read children are writing every day in different genres.

Teaching literacy in a DEIS (disadvantaged) school can bring different challenges. For example, our children tend to come to school with a weaker repertoire of oral language than in non-disadvantaged contexts and this is something that we, as teachers, must be mindful of. Write to Read has helped us to address this by developing a rich literacy environment where reading, writing and oral language are celebrated.”

What changes have you noticed in your pupils since the school began to implement Write to Read?
“Where do I start?! First of all, it’s their motivation towards literacy. They genuinely love reading and writing. Seeing children now reading for pleasure and seeing their noses in books at any given opportunity, even at break time, is something which would not have happened in our school ten years ago! Our children are so articulate now.

They are very resilient and they approach tasks with a greater determination than before. They are determined to succeed in all their literacy tasks and genuinely want to do well. We hope this gives them a strong foundation and the necessary skills to succeed in second level education and hopefully go on to third level education.”

What difference does Write to Read make to you as a teacher?
“As you can probably tell, I am very passionate and enthusiastic about literacy. I know it is a cliché but thanks to Write to Read, I feel I can make a difference in the classroom and I feel literacy is now one of the school’s main strengths, which wasn’t always the case.”

A genuine love of reading and writing
Stephen Brett from Our Lady of the Wayside NS in Bluebell, Dublin 12 describes how Write to Read has changed the school’s approach to literacy since 2012.
Exploring adult religious education and faith development today

In June 2018, DCU’s Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education and the Presentation Sisters, North East Province, announced an exciting new three-year partnership to enable research into community-based adult religious education and faith development in Ireland today.

Dr Bernadette Sweetman was appointed to work on the project as a post-doctoral researcher in October 2018 together with Principal Investigator, Dr Gareth Byrne, Director of the Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education.

The first year of the project explored the current landscape of adult religious education and faith development through an extensive literature review and data collection phase. In the next two years, the project will seek to develop and deliver pilot projects to test new approaches to faith development, working with local faith communities throughout Ireland.

“We were delighted to receive over 730 responses to an online survey this year from members of the public with an interest in adult religious education. This strong response has provided us with great encouragement and valuable insights as we embark on the next phase of our project to engage with local faith communities across Ireland in the next two years.”

Dr Bernadette Sweetman
DCU’s Centre of Excellence for Diversity and Inclusion, supported by founding partners Laya Healthcare, Indeed, PwC and AIB, is a central hub for research, advice and knowledge exchange on diversity and inclusion. The Centre creates a bridge between DCU’s talent and industry partners, helping organisations build cultures of inclusion by providing access to the very latest in academic research, insights and tools on diversity and inclusion. It supports organisations in all aspects of their diversity and inclusion journeys.

The Centre celebrates its first anniversary in June 2019 by hosting the 6th National Diversity and Inclusion Day. For more information: www.dcu.ie/hr/coe_diversity_inclusion.shtml

"DCU’s Centre of Excellence will serve as a one-stop-shop, providing invaluable thought leadership and international best practice in the diversity and inclusion arena."

Professor Brian MacCraith, President, DCU
The DCU Brexit Institute, supported by AIB, Grant Thornton, Arthur Cox and Dublin Airport Central, is the only centre of its kind in Europe. Since its establishment in 2017, the Institute has played a leading role in analysing the major legal, political and economic challenges raised by the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). It comprises experts from across DCU’s faculties and connects them with specialists in Ireland, the EU and beyond.

In 2018 - 2019, the DCU Brexit Institute produced an impressive 137 publications, 120 blog articles, two books, 14 working papers and one European Parliament report. The Institute held 13 high profile events in Dublin and other European capitals, which explored the implications of Brexit for eight sectors including agri-food, SMEs, aviation, financial services, international development cooperation, customs and trade, medicine and public health and climate and energy policy. The events featured 45 keynote speakers including current and former Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, European Affairs, European Commissioners, members of the Irish, UK and European Parliament and the Central Bank Deputy Governor.

President Michael D Higgins pictured at the launch of DCU’s Brexit Institute together with Professor Brian MacCraith, President of DCU and Professor Federico Fabrini, Director of the DCU Brexit Institute.

Hilary Benn MP, Chairman of the UK House of Commons Committee on Exiting the EU, speaks at an event on “Brexit, Ireland and the Future of Europe.”
Engaging with communities
Developing a North Dublin Cultural Quarter

‘Talent, Discovery and Transformation,’ DCU’s strategic plan for the period 2017 to 2022, emphasises the University’s commitment to develop significant initiatives in the areas of the arts, creativity and culture. This includes an ambitious goal to collaborate with neighbouring communities in the establishment of a North Dublin Cultural Quarter.

Working towards this aim, DCU once again opened its doors in April 2019 for the second ANAM festival. Billed as a ‘Celebration of Arts, Ideas and Creativity in North Dublin,’ the event programme was curated and produced by Philip King’s South Wind Blows team, creators of the popular Other Voices television show and festival.

Highlights from the two-day event included:
— The Heart of the Rowl, an evening of contemporary folk and traditional music and song in the atmospheric All Hallows Chapel, with contributions from David Keenan, Cormac Begley and Libby McCrohan and Landless
— Other Voices presents ANAM, in DCU’s new student centre, ‘the U,’ where attendees witnessed unforgettable performances by Irish talent such as Mango X MathMan, Delorentos, Tebi Rex, Natalya O’Flaherty and KTG
— Readings featuring Melatu Uche Okorie and participants from the Fighting Words programme and a literary event curated by Darren McCann and Marina Carr
— Visual Voices, a photographic exhibition accompanied by a series of documentary narratives, created as part of DCU’s University of Sanctuary MELLIE storytelling initiative following a 12-week collaboration between refugees and asylum seekers, volunteer staff and DCU students with artist Vukašin Nedeljković

Supported by Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council, IMRO, KPMG and Neogen, ANAM boasted an impressive lineup of leading artists and musicians performing alongside DCU staff, students and people from surrounding communities. It included concerts, readings, films, masterclasses and discussions, with events taking place across DCU’s Glasnevin, Drumcondra and All Hallows campuses.
Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to enhance the visual environment of the University. In June 2018, AIB shared a thirteen-piece art collection with DCU. The collection was curated by Maureen Porteous and is now housed in Albert College on DCU’s Glasnevin campus. It draws inspiration from Albert College’s history as shaper of the ever-changing Irish countryside and consists of works by thirteen of Ireland’s premier artists including Nathaniel Hone, Oisin Kelly, Tony O’Malley, Mary Farl Powers and Anne Yeats.
Thanks to a generous philanthropic donation, Dublin City University was delighted to launch a major national initiative in 2019 to recognise the transformative role of teachers and the enormous contribution they make in Irish society.

Through a national advertising and publicity campaign, Teachers Inspire encouraged members of the public to share their personal story of how a teacher transformed their lives and/or their community. Former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese and Dublin footballer Jonny Cooper were among high profile figures in Irish life who shared their own inspiring stories and urged others to do the same.

Over 400 submissions were received from individuals wishing to recognise teachers who inspired excellence, passion, imagination, creativity, compassion and courage. Entries spanned over an eighty-year period, from the 1940s to the present day, covering an array of inspirational teachers from primary schools, secondary schools, and the Further Education and Training sector.

The campaign will culminate in the inaugural Teachers Inspire Ireland gala dinner in DCU in October 2019 when teachers from across Ireland will be acknowledged and celebrated. Four teachers, one from each province, will be presented with a Desmond Award, named after businessman and philanthropist Dermot Desmond, who has generously supported the initiative.
In October 2018 Facebook and the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre (ABC) at DCU’s Institute of Education launched a three-year partnership which will see an anti-bullying and online safety training programme offered to every post-primary school in Ireland.

Supported by Facebook, leading ABC experts will offer the FUSE Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme to teachers and parents of 12-17 year old students across the country.

Through face-to-face workshops and online modules, participants will be equipped with the tools to identify and understand bullying and will develop the skills to support students when it comes to online safety. The programme will reach an estimated 800 post primary schools across Ireland by 2021.

“In a study we conducted in 2017, school principals cited a lack of time and resources available to train teachers and the need for additional support as the main challenges in tackling bullying and online safety in schools. By adopting a youth-led, train-the-trainer approach, this programme will empower young people, teachers and parents to further educate whole-school communities in bullying, cyberbullying and online safety issues.”

James O’Higgins Norman, ABC Director and UNESCO Chair on Tackling Bullying in Schools
Close to 1,000 delegates descended on DCU’s Glasnevin campus for the World Anti-Bullying Forum in June 2019. Over three days, experts, educators, young people and policy makers came together to discuss and share ideas on the best possible methods to tackle bullying, cyberbullying and online safety.

Organised by the National Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre at DCU, in partnership with FRIENDS, International Bullying Prevention Association and UNESCO, the event was backed by DCU Educational Trust supporters Dublin City Council and Vodafone.

The global event boasted an impressive range of speakers that included Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships; Antigone Davis, Global Head of Safety, Facebook Instagram; Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, EU Parliament Coordinator for Children’s Rights; and Mary Mitchell O’Connor TD, Minister of State.

Vodafone Connecting for Good: Starting a National Conversation on Healthy Online Behaviour for Children and Parents:
As part of the World Anti-Bullying Forum, leading figures in the field of children’s rights, Dr Geoffrey Shannon, the Government’s Special Rapporteur on Child Protection and John Hand, CEO of the Irish Society for Protection of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) joined social psychologist Karen Hand and DCU researcher Helena Murphy, Vodafone Foundation CEO, Liam O’Brien and a youth ambassador from Webwise for a special session, hosted by Vodafone to discuss healthy online behaviour.
In October 2018, friends and supporters of Dublin City University joined us for our annual Leadership Circle Dinner. This is a special night which celebrates the ways in which the generosity of the University’s leading donors helps to transform lives and societies through education.

Guests heard from Access graduate, Debbie Somorin, who became homeless at the age of 13. Through support from a number of sources, including the DCU Access Scholarship Programme, she was able to complete a BA in Accounting and Finance and an MSc in Accounting at DCU. She is now a qualified chartered accountant and assistant manager with PwC.

Music on the evening was supplied by DCU’s own talented traditional music group SeanChas and singer-songwriter Katie Gallagher. Katie performed her single, Yesterday, which she released in aid of dementia research at DCU.
Awards in three different categories were presented on the night for Individual Leadership, Staff Leadership and Corporate Leadership.

The 2018 Individual Leadership Award went to Paul and Margaret Kerley, in recognition of their long-standing personal support of the DCU Access Scholarship Programme, and their generosity in creating new doctoral and master’s scholarships focused on the area of autism and inclusion within mainstream education in Ireland.

The Staff Leadership Award went to Chief Operations Officer at the University, Dr Declan Raftery, in recognition of his contribution to the development and establishment of one of the most high profile and important projects in DCU’s Campus Development Plan; the establishment of ‘the U’, DCU’s student centre.

The final award of the evening for Corporate Leadership was presented to PwC in recognition of their support for DCU for over 20 years. During this time, PwC have generously supported GAA Sports Scholarships, the Access Scholarship Programme and have been a founding and ongoing partner in the DCU National Centre for Family Business.

DCU Access graduate Debbie Somorin.
DCU alumni help raise €79,000 for Access scholarships

Over three weeks in May and June 2019, we reached out to DCU alumni to reconnect and raise funds for Access scholarships at DCU through our annual telethon. Our team of 27 student callers spoke to an impressive 523 DCU graduates who kindly pledged over €79,000 to support Access scholarships in the coming years.

This support comes at a critical time with demand for Access scholarships increasing significantly in recent years. Access student numbers at DCU have grown from 424 in 2012 to 1,258 this year. DCU alumni have shown great enthusiasm for the programme during recent telethon campaigns and have, once again, played an important role in helping DCU Educational Trust to meet this substantial increase in need.

“Being a student caller in this year’s telethon was an extremely fulfilling experience. It gave me an opportunity to speak directly with alumni and inform them of the wonderful work carried out by the DCU Access team. It also gave me the opportunity to share my own story with graduates and I was glad to tell them how their support for Access has single-handedly changed my life.”

Casey McHugh is a 2nd year Communication Studies student who was also a student telethon caller during this year’s telethon.
Aaron McLoughlin was one of two lucky DCU Access students awarded a place on Digicel’s prestigious internship programme in 2018. In this piece, Aaron talks about how support from DCU’s Access Programme and his internship with Digicel have helped get his career off to a successful start.

“As I write this piece, I am the proud holder of a 2.1 degree in Business Studies from DCU and I am currently working in an Account Manager role with Indeed. Many people who knew me when I was 16 or 17, when I basically skipped two years of school, or even at 19 when I was dealing with family difficulties and had failed my first year in DCU, would never have predicted this as my future.

I have always been a hard worker but the support of DCU’s Access Programme and my Digicel Internship have truly helped to change my life. DCU’s Access Programme enabled me to move away from a bad situation at home and to live on campus where I made good friends who were focused on their studies.

Throughout college, I worked 30 hours a week in retail but I didn’t have any corporate experience. When I heard about the Digicel opportunity, I knew that I would leave no stone unturned to get it. My experience with the company in St Lucia actually exceeded my expectations though. From working on the Business Solutions team to the Carcip project, it was amazing that Digicel were willing to give a very high level of experience to their interns.

I also really enjoyed being involved with the Digicel Foundation’s work to support local communities in the Caribbean.”

“It was amazing that Digicel were willing to give a very high level of experience to their interns.”
The work of DCU Educational Trust is guided by its six directors and 20 Council members who voluntarily give their time and expertise to guide the work of the organisation:

- Larry Quinn (Chairperson and Director)
- Professor Brian MacCraith (Director)
- Bernie Cullinan (Director)
- Eamonn Quinn (Director)
- Jerry McCrohan (Director)
- Liavan Mallin (Director, retired 2019)
- Brian O’Dwyer
- Ciaran O’Kelly
- Colm Delves
- Fiona Gallagher
- Gay White
- John Martin
- Mary Shine Thompson
- Michael Bennett
- Michael O’Halleran
- Paul Keogh
- Paul Kerley
- Raymond Reilly
- Robert M. Dunn PhD
- Tommy Drumm (retired 2019)
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The Campaign for DCU
Dublin City University Educational Trust

The DCU Educational Trust is a registered charity (CHY 8960) established in 1988 to advance the development of Dublin City University.