

# *Strengthening Strategic Partnerships*

to effect system change

## Guest speakers



**Walter Balfe** is Head of Quality Assurance for QQI Awards in QQI, Ireland's qualifications authority and quality assurance agency for further and higher education. His role relates to provider and programme level accreditation where the programmes lead to QQI awards.



**Douglas Blackstock** is the elected President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

He is the former Chief Executive of the UK's independent Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). Douglas held Executive roles there for 20 years and now acts as an international consultant for QAA. He also provides independent consultancy related to higher education and regulation for other clients.



**Dr Barbara Brittingham** is President Emerita of the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) in Massachusetts, the institutional accreditor for 221 institutions in the six New England states and 12 in other countries.

She has worked with ministries and universities in over twenty-five countries, sponsored by the Fulbright Commission, the U.S. State Department, the World Bank, and local governments and universities.



**Professor Mark Brown** is Ireland's first Chair of Digital Learning and Director of the National Institute for Digital Learning (NIDL) at Dublin City University.

Both the Treasurer and a Senior Fellow of EDEN Digital Learning Europe, Mark is also collaborating with QQI to help develop revised Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Blended and Online Programme Delivery.



During the last fifteen years **Keith Brumfitt** has worked as an international consultant for the European Commission, its agencies and contractors.

This includes providing expert advice to the ECVET and EQAVET networks; and supporting the European Network of Experts on graduate tracking in vocational and higher education. He is currently evaluating the French Centres of Vocational Excellence and is a Board member of an international body awarding vocational and higher education qualifications.



**Amanda Butler** is a quality assurance coordinator in KCETB. Her work activities include policy development and review, programme development and implementation and liaising with and supporting KCETB centres in relation to quality assurance.

Previously, she has worked in the pharmaceutical industry with roles in quality control, quality assurance, validation and regulatory compliance.



**Tony Connelly** is Europe Editor for RTÉ, Ireland's public broadcaster.

He is the recipient of two ESB National Media awards, a European Journalism Award and a New York Festivals radio award. He has received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the UCD Smurfit Graduate School journalism awards, and an Irish Law Society Justice Media Award for his coverage of the Brexit negotiations.



**Dr Ailsa Crum** is Director of Membership, Quality Enhancement & Standards at QAA where her team is responsible for developing and managing key sector reference points such as the UK Quality Code, qualifications frameworks and subject benchmark statements.

She also leads QAA's quality enhancement offer on topics including future approaches to learning and teaching, assessment, micro-credentials, academic integrity and education for sustainable development.



**Goran Dakovic** is a Head of Agency Reviews at the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), where he oversees the external reviews of quality assurance agencies against the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

Previously he worked as a Reviews Manager at ENQA, and as a Policy & Project Officer for the Institutional Development Unit at the European University Association (EUA).



**Roisin Doherty** is Director of Further Education and Training Learner Support at SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority where she supports the development of integrated and inclusive Further Education and Training [FET] learning systems delivered through strategic oversight frameworks with a focus on supporting the whole of life incremental learning.



**Professor Barbara Dooley** is Acting Registrar and Deputy President at University College Dublin. Prior UCD roles include Dean of Graduate Studies (2014 to 2022), Vice-Principal for Teaching and Learning in the College of Social Science and Law (2009 to 2014) and Head of the School of Psychology (2005 to 2009).

She is a steering group member of the European Universities Association Council for Doctoral Education, and former member of the National Framework for Doctoral Education Advisory Forum.



**Dr Linda Doyle** was appointed the 45th Provost of Trinity College Dublin by staff and student representatives, coming into office on August 1, 2021.

She served previously as Trinity's Dean & Vice President of Research (2018-2020) and was the founding Director of CONNECT - the Science Foundation Ireland research centre for future communication networks. Prior to her appointment as Provost, Linda was Professor of Engineering and The Arts in Trinity.





**Michael Draper** is a Professor in Legal Education and Director of the Swansea Academy of Inclusivity and Learner Success and Chair of the University's Academic Regulations and Student Cases Board. A member of three national Law society committees he is also a consultant expert with the UK Quality Assurance Agency and the Council of Europe ETINED platform with regular meetings in Strasbourg and throughout Europe. Michael is a Principal fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a member of the professional development committee of UKAT.



**Shauna Dunlop** is the Director of Research, Data and Strategic Engagement with SOLAS. In this role Shauna has strategic responsibility for the 3 year Strategic Performance Agreements between SOLAS and all the Education and Training Boards, implementation of the national 5 year Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy 2020 - 2024 and overall national strategic engagement.

She has significant strategic leadership and stakeholder engagement experience and expertise as well as a track record of successfully developing and implementing sector strategies to drive and influence positive change across Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK.



**Cath Ellis** was appointed Associate Dean (Education) in the Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture at UNSW, Sydney in 2020. Previously she was Associate Dean (Education) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Prior to that she worked at the University of Huddersfield in West Yorkshire, UK and the University of Wollongong in Australia. While her background is in Australian and Postcolonial Literature, her current research is in the area of academic integrity with a particular interest in contract cheating.



**Peter Felten** is a professor of history, executive director of the Center for Engaged Learning, and assistant provost for teaching and learning at Elon University.

He has published six books about undergraduate education including (with Leo Lambert), *Relationship-Rich Education: How Human Connections Drive Success in College* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020). His next book, a student guide to relationship-rich education co-authored with Isis Artze-Vega, Leo Lambert, and Oscar Miranda Tapia, will be published by Johns Hopkins in early 2023.



**Dr Orla Flynn** was appointed inaugural President of Atlantic Technological University in April 2022, having served two years as President of Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. Prior to this Dr Flynn was Vice President for External Affairs at Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) for six years, and previous academic leadership roles in CIT included Head of CIT Crawford College of Art & Design and Head of School of Humanities.

She is a Director on the Boards of HEANet and Galway Chamber of Commerce.



**Professor Paul Giller** is the former Registrar and Senior Vice President Academic at University College Cork and is currently an Emeritus Professor of Ecology.

He has experience as a recipient of QA and as a reviewer from both ends of the QA process -from leading a university through its external institutional review to participating in and chairing QA review panels internally and externally at programme, school/department, research and Institutional levels.



**Dr Helen Gniel** is Director of the Higher Education Integrity Unit in the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), and has over 20 years experience in Australia's higher education sector as a scientist, academic, and quality assurance professional.



**Joanne Harmon** is Head of Online Learning Student Experience with Atlantic Technological University. Prior to this, she was Head of Business and Education Support with the Health and Safety Authority. She also held the posts of Education Manager and Communications Manager in H.S.A. Ms. Harmon has worked in communications, education and youth-development roles in the public, private and not-for-profit sector. She is a graduate (B.A.) of UCD and holds a MBS in Business Practice, a Diploma in Corporate Governance, as well as a post-graduate qualifications from DIT (legal studies), and PRII.



**Professor Robert A. Harris** was born and educated in the UK and conducted a PhD at University College London in the field of parasitology.

He moved to Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden in 1994 becoming Professor of Immunotherapy in Neurological diseases there in 2013. Currently serving as Academic Vice President of Doctoral Education and head of the International Council at Karolinska Institutet, he is also a former President of the international doctoral education organization ORPHEUS.



**Simon Harris TD** is the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

As Minister responsible for Further and Higher Education, he has prioritised the delivery of regional technological universities, reform and integration of the third level system including apprenticeships, advancing social inclusion and equality in education and developing Ireland's human capital through education, skills and training.



**Terry W. Hartle** is the senior vice president for government and public affairs at the American Council on Education, where he leads the higher education community's efforts to engage federal legislative and executive branch policymakers on issues including student aid, government regulation and tax policy.

Prior to joining ACE in 1993, Hartle served for six years as education staff director for the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.



**Oisín Hassan** is Programme Manager of the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) in Ireland which works to enhance student engagement in higher education decision-making across governance, teaching and learning, and quality assurance.

A former board member of QQI, Oisín has just completed a term as an international board member for the Icelandic Quality Board for Higher Education. He is currently completing his part-time Masters in Public Policy at Dublin City University.





**Frida Hengeveld** studied Social Pedagogy at the University of Utrecht (Netherlands). She has a first grade for lecturing in psychology and pedagogy and has completed an additional study in Quality Assessment and Educational Development at the University of Twente.

Frida is an expert in the development of non-profit organisations such as educational institutes. She is co-author of the method/publication: EFQM in Higher Education.



**Blake Hodkinson** is Director of Further Education and Training with City of Dublin Education Training Board (CDETB). Previously he has held the role of Acting Director of Schools of CDETB, Principal of Marino College and St. Kevin's College.

He studied Geography, Economics and Education in UCD and Educational Management in TCD and holds post-graduate qualifications from UCD, TCD, NUIG and IPA.



**Anna Jakobek** is a level 6 Advanced Business- Legal Specialism student at Cork College of FET - Morrisons Island Campus. She was part of the Tipperary ETB and Louth and Meath ETB report panels and is also taking part in the sectoral report panel.

She is also on the board of AONTAS as an adult learner representative and vice chairperson of the Learner Voices Committee for Cork ETB. She was also short listed for the Exceptional Endeavour award at the Cork Lifelong Learning awards 2021.



**David Jones** is currently the Chair of Qualifications Wales and of the Defence Electronics Component Agency (DECA). He is also a board member of the Wales Appeals Board of NSPCC Cymru, and of Estyn (the Office of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training, Wales).

He currently works in a range of non-executive and consultancy roles, and continues to use this experience, working with a range of stakeholders, to support regulation and reform in education and training.



From January 2012 to April 2022, **William Kelly** served as Deputy Registrar and Dean of Teaching & Learning at DCU which entailed responsibility for curriculum development, quality assurance of teaching & learning activities, and oversight of strategic initiatives in relation to teaching & learning across the University.

Since November 2019 he has served as the Chair of the National Academic Integrity Network.



**Dearbháil Lawless** is the CEO in AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation.

She is Vice-President of the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA), Board member of D8 Community Education Centre, and Editorial Board member of ELM Magazine. With over 10 years' experience in adult education, practice and policy, she is currently a PhD candidate in the Dept of Adult and Community Education in Maynooth University.



**David Leahy** is the Chief Executive of Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) since its establishment in 2013.

He previously held the positions of Chief Executive Officer, North Tipperary VEC and Principal of Portumna Community School. He holds a B.D. from Maynooth, a H.Dip.Ed.Studies (School Development Planning) from N.U.I. Galway, a H.Dip.Ed and an M.Ed (Guidance and Counselling) from Trinity College.



**Mary Lyons** is Director of Enterprise, Employees and Skills at SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority (FET) in Ireland.

She has extensive experience as a researcher, lecturer and a skills development specialist in a range of education and industry settings. In recent years she has focused on national workforce development policy and strategic skills initiatives based on collaborative innovation by education and enterprise partners.



**Bryan Maguire** is Director of Integration at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). He has worked in QQI and its predecessor agency HETAC since 2005. Previously he was Head of School of Creative Technologies at Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Ireland and lectured in Bangor University, Wales from 1991-98. Dr Maguire holds a bachelor degree in psychology from University College, Dublin and a PhD from the University of California, San Francisco.

An internationally recognized expert on qualifications frameworks and quality assurance he has served numerous advisory and review groups, including the European Qualifications Framework advisory group and the Bologna Thematic Peer Group on quality assurance.



**Jacqueline McCormack**, Professor of Biomedical Sciences, is Vice-President for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Online Development at Atlantic Technological University (ATU).

As well as having oversight of EDI related issues, she has responsibility for providing leadership in developing the University's ambitious plans for continued growth in online and flexible learning and is Project Lead for the Higher Ed 4.0 HCI Project.



**Clodagh McGivern** is the Vice President for Academic Affairs in the Union of Students in Ireland.



**Ian McKenna** is Principal Officer in the International Co-operation Unit in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

He has worked in a number of units in the Department of Education since 1990 but has been involved in higher education since 2002. In his current role, he is leading work on the development of the next International Education, Research and Innovation (ERI) Strategy.





**Dr Lucy Michael** is a sociologist in practice and consultant on equality and integration issues. Her work particularly addresses racist discrimination and violence, and the roles of statutory institutions and civil society in combating hate and planning for inclusive societies.

With Dr Marta Kempny, she is author of *Race Equality in Higher Education*, the HEA's first survey of race equality, and their recommendations have informed the recently launched Race Equality Implementation Plan.



**Sarah Miley** graduated from University College Dublin with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science and a Master of Arts (Politics). She subsequently obtained a Master of Arts (Public Management) from the Institute of Public Administration, and a Professional Diploma in Organisational Change and Transformation from University College Dublin.

Her career has largely been spent in the broader education and training field, through national agencies and central Government departments. She joined the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in 2021, where she has responsibility for the Apprenticeship and Public Policy Partnering unit.



**Dr Jim Murray** is Director of Development at QQI. He has previously held senior executive roles in Institutes of Technology Ireland (IOTI)/Technological Higher Education Association (THEA), 2011-2021; and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQA), 2003-2011. A historian by training, Jim began his career as an archivist in the UK's National Archives in 1990 and moved into education policy and administration in the mid-1990s in Dublin City University, where he served successively in the roles of Senior Faculty Administrator (Science Faculty) and Assistant Registrar (Policy and Planning) until 2003.



**Dr Siobhán Nic Fhlannchadha** is Project Manager of StudentSurvey.ie (the Irish Survey of Student Engagement). She previously worked as Research and Operations Officer for the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) and the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR), which are higher education entry schemes for students with disabilities and/ or from socio-economically and socio-culturally disadvantaged backgrounds.

Dr Nic Fhlannchadha was awarded her PhD in Psychology from UCD in 2016, with funding from COGG (An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltacht agus Gaelscolaíochta).



Prior to becoming President at NUI Galway, **Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh** served as Principal and Dean of UCD College of Business, leading its schools in Dublin (UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and UCD Smurfit Executive Development) and its overseas programmes in Hong Kong, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Ciarán has also worked in academic leadership roles in Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and in Dublin City University.



**Dr Philip Owende** is Assistant Head of Academic Affairs in TU Dublin (Quality Framework), and formally Registrar TU Dublin, Blanchardstown Campus.

A Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Ireland (FIEI) he is a member of the Expert Group for the HEA Review of Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions 2022. He is also co-Chair of TU Dublin's EDI Working Group on Interculturalism, assigned to providing direction for a 5-year strategic plan with initial focus on race equity.



**Dr Catherine Peck** has worked in teaching, leadership and programme development roles for Asian, Australian and Irish higher education institutions.

Trained as an applied linguist, her main research interests are intercultural competence development, the role of identity and language in intercultural learning, and inclusive educational practices. In recent years, Over the past decade, she has published a number of research and practice-based papers and book chapters in the domain of higher education. She has also delivered invited lectures, presentations and workshops on learning and teaching in the US, Europe, Asia and Australia.



**Dr Lynn Ramsay** is Director of MicroCreds, the national HCI funded programme which is leading the development of a national framework for micro-credentials for higher education in Ireland.

She is also Chair of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and a Director of the Higher Education Authority and co-Chair of the Bologna Futures Working Group on Learning and Teaching.



**Dara Ryder** is Chief Executive Officer of AHEAD, an Irish NGO dedicated to creating inclusive environments for people with disabilities in education and employment.

His research interests include monitoring the participation of students with disabilities in higher education, exploring the learning experiences and desires of students with disabilities, and examining the implementation of UDL in policy and practice.



**Professor Irene Sheridan** currently leads the Extended Campus, at Munster Technological University.

Irene's research interests include mapping and measuring engagement between Higher Education and Enterprise and various forms of Experiential Learning. Irene is a founding member of the Enterprise Engagement and Experiential Learning Research Group in CIT and is a member of the Board of QQI.



**Jane Stout** is a professor at Trinity College Dublin whose work focusses on understanding the complexities of natural ecosystems and the interactions between nature and people.

She has just taken on the new role of Vice President for Biodiversity and Climate Action, embedding sustainability as a key priority throughout operations, education and research. Prior to this, she was co-Director of the Nature+, the Trinity Centre for Biodiversity & Sustainable Nature Based Solutions.



**Stephanie Thompson** is an Assistant Principal Officer in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) since its establishment in 2020.

In her current role, Stephanie works as part of the Department's Strategic Policy Unit which has been working on the development of policy towards a more unified tertiary education system, which is a significant policy objective for the Department.





**Dr Mary-Liz Trant** is the first Director of the National Apprenticeship Office (NAO), a new body jointly established by SOLAS and the Higher Education Authority to implement the Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025.

Prior to this Mary-Liz has held senior posts in the HEA and SOLAS. A teacher by profession, Mary-Liz has taught at second and third-level and worked with early school leavers and she holds a doctorate in Education and Masters' Degrees in Education and in French.



**Dr Padraig Walsh** is the Chief Executive Officer of QQI and has extensive experience in the regulation of the tertiary education sector.

He was President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) from 2013 to 2017 and has also served on the governance bodies of quality assurance bodies in Scotland and Switzerland.



An award-winning journalist, **John Walshe** was appointed special adviser to Ruairi Quinn who was Minister for Education and Skills from March 2011 to July 2014. Prior to that, John was an educational editor and was also a consultant to the OECD in Paris where he was involved in four major studies on education.

He is the author of 'A New Partnership in Education' which chronicled many of the major changes in Irish education in recent decades and also wrote 'An Education' which recounted his experience as a Ministerial adviser. He is currently a consultant and commentator on educational issues.



**Dr Blánaid White** is Dean of Strategic Learning Innovation in Dublin City University. She leads DCU Futures, a €20 million education transformation project, which aims to radically reimagine the university curriculum and reconceptualization of university teaching.

An analytical chemist by trade, Blánaid has been involved in multiple projects embedding innovative teaching methods so that students learn in exciting and engaging environments.



**Dr Ross Woods** is Senior Manager, Centre of Excellence for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Higher Education Authority.

A tenacious and committed education and research professional, he has over a decade's experience in the tertiary education sector in Ireland and overseas.