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Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn
Letterkenny Institute of Technology

PRESS RELEASE

Institutes of Technology receive €1.4M funding for Hospitality and Culinary Arts education through Springboard



Pictured: Adrian Cummins, RAI; Tina Maree, IHI; Ciarán Ó hAnnracháin, LYIT and Project Lead; Michael Vaughan, IHF and Chair of the Hospitality Oversight Group

A Consortium of Institutes of Technology (IoTs) collaborated on a national application to Springboard to fund ongoing training and education for the Hospitality sector. These activities are a replacement for the Fáilte Ireland funded programmes of the past number of years. Given the severe shortage of chefs at all levels, professional front line staff in food and beverage and accommodation, and the need for upskilling and professional development of middle and senior managers, the consortium sought support for their application from the key industry agencies – the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF), the Restaurants Association of Ireland (RAI) and the Irish Hospitality Institute (IHI).

The Consortium, led out by Ciarán Ó hAnnracháin of Letterkenny IT, Killybegs Campus, submitted proposals in Culinary Skills, Food and Beverage Operations and Restaurant Management, while a fourth project in Hotel Management was co-ordinated by Mary Rose Stafford at IT Tralee. The four programmes will provide funded spaces for over 230 additional participants at operational, supervisory and management education levels. Programmes will be offered on one or two days per

week over an academic year, and will facilitate recruitment of new staff off the live register or of homemakers wishing to return to work, as well as giving opportunities for staff within the industry to engage in college learning to upskill or re-skill.

Tina Maree, National Executive Officer of the Irish Hospitality Institute, commended the advances made by the IoT Sector in the development of flexible educational programmes, providing students with the opportunity to learn, upskill and work. This initiative can only be a positive development in attracting people to work within the Hospitality Sector.

The programmes will be offered through a network of IoTs to include Athlone, Cork, Galway, Letterkenny (Killybegs), Tralee and Waterford. Courses are fully funded for participants on the live register and homemakers. Courses at Level 6 (Culinary Skills and Food & Beverage Operations) are also free to those in the workplace, while participants in employment on the Restaurant Management (Level 7) and Hotel Management (Level 8) will pay a contribution of 10% of the cost of the programme.

The proposals were recently endorsed and commended at the Hospitality Oversight Group Meeting in Dublin. The Hospitality Oversight Group was established on recommendation from the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs to oversee education and training developments for the sector.

Speaking at the meeting, Adrian Cummins, Chief Executive of the RAI, welcomed the proposals and the commitment of the IT sector in their work on training and education for the sector.

Applications to the programmes will be through the Springboard portal www.springboardcourses.ie, and courses will commence in September 2018.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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Programme	Lead Partner	No. of Places	Provider IoTs	Cost (Unemployed/Homemakers)	Cost (Employed)
Certificate in Culinary Skills (Level 6) (Uniforms and Knives provided for all participants)	LYIT	48	CIT IT Tralee GMIT LYIT WIT	€0	€0
Certificate in Food and Beverage Operations (Level 6)	LYIT	40	LYIT IT Tralee	€0	€0
Diploma in Restaurant Operations Management (Level 7)	LYIT	48	AIT IT Tralee LYIT WIT	€0	€550
BA(Hons) in Hotel Management (add-on) (Level 8)	IT Tralee	50	IT Tralee LYIT	€0	€300