

Kerry Sports Academy

NEW PATHWAYS IN EDUCATION, ADAPTED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT ARE COMING TO COUNTY KERRY.

The future Kerry Sports Academy





“The development of the Kerry Sports Academy will be a tremendous addition to the sporting infrastructure of the county and will ensure Kerry athletes are to the forefront of Irish sport.”

—Darragh Ó Sé, Six All Ireland Medals and record championship appearances for Kerry

Kerry has a proud tradition of sporting participation and success.

As a county it continues to develop state of the art universally-accessible facilities to allow all people to participate in physical activity and sport from recreational level to the highest national and international level. Key to this commitment is the Kerry Sports Academy initiative which The Ireland Funds are proud to support.



The Academy will soon be a state-of-the-art facility located on the campus of the Institute of Technology in Tralee. It will be the largest capital educational project to take place in Kerry in 2016 and during construction it will create 120 jobs. It will become the heart and soul of the community, as not only will it be used by the Institute and its partners, but also by many sporting organisations, community groups and the business community throughout Kerry. Here, Dick Spring, former Tanaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and former Minister for Foreign Affairs, shares the vision of this vital addition to the future of the South West of Ireland.



"The Kerry Sports Academy will be an internationally recognized facility, which will allow Kerry athletes both able and disabled, to prepare and compete to the highest international standards."

— Mick Galwey, Former Player with Kerry, Munster, Ireland and the Lions

In 2014 the Institute of Technology Tralee, set up a Foundation to support its development by raising funds to provide for state of the art facilities on its campus in Tralee. I am honoured to chair the Foundation and with the Board, I am determined to raise the funding to provide for the enhancement of college facilities which will enable the Institute to continue its important and significant role in Education, Adapted Physical Activity, and Sport.

The Institute has an esteemed international reputation for leadership in inclusion and adapted physical activity. In 2013, the Institute was awarded an UNESCO

Chair in Inclusive Physical Education, Sports, Fitness and Recreation. It is the only higher education provider globally to be awarded a UNESCO Chair in this area. This is testimony to the excellence of the Institute's work in including people with disabilities in physical education, sport fitness and recreation.

The Kerry Sports Academy will allow sports people, able and disabled, to enjoy, prepare and compete to the highest standards. The Academy has been designed to address the needs of paralympic level athletes, as well as opening up a world of opportunities and accessibility to sports and recreation for people with disabilities in our society.

The total cost of the Academy is estimated at €15m, and it will be home to:

- Health and Leisure Programmes at the IT Tralee
- UNESCO Chair in Inclusive Physical Education, Sport Fitness, and Recreation
- National Centre for Adapted Physical Activity—CARA
- Kerry GAA Centre of Excellence
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in Kerry



DIRECTORS ON THE FOUNDATION BOARD INCLUDE:

Stan McCarthy, CEO Kerry Group

Pat O'Leary, Managing Director Liebherr Container Cranes

Kevin Kenny, Retired Tax Partner Ernest & Young

Michael O'Muircheartaigh, Broadcaster

Dr. Oliver Murphy, President IT, Tralee

Brid McElligott, Vice President - Research, Development
and External Engagement IT Tralee

They share a great passion to support the economic and social development of their native Kerry and their business acumen, energy and enthusiasm is essential to the project.

The Academy will incorporate the following facilities;

- International sized indoor sports arena
- Suite of auditoria
- Hydrotherapy suite
- Massage suites
- Teaching gym
- Aerobic and dance studios
- High performance gym
- Student recreation area
- Performance arena
- Laboratory facilities

We have been approved for 50% Government funding for the project (€7.5m) and the Foundation is committed to raising the balance of funds (€7.5m) over the

next eighteen months. The Foundation is focusing its fundraising efforts on, philanthropic foundations, high net worth individuals, corporate donors, government funding and strategic partners. To date the Foundation has secured €4.75m from these sources. The Foundation is now focusing its efforts on raising the remaining €2.75m required.

The Institute is a key driver of economic and social development for County Kerry and the surrounding regions. Established in 1977 it has over 3,000 full-time students, employing 350 staff and providing a financial contribution of circa €60m to the local economy. At present under the auspices of the Government it is amalgamating with Cork Institute of Technology and in 2018 it will become the Munster Technological University.

The Institute is proving very popular with International students and in 2015 one sixth of the student population (500) were overseas students. Students come from the Middle East, China, Africa, and Europe. They find Tralee a safe, friendly and affordable multi-cultural environment in which to study.

As a result of the goodwill that our project has generated at home, in the UK and the USA I am confident that we will succeed in achieving our objective and I look forward to welcoming the friends of Ireland to our new facility when they return to County Kerry.