



MHTNI Project Team photographed with Professor Brian MacCraith (centre) and other award winners

MHTNI Project Wins DCU Civic Engagement Award!

The Mental Health Trialogue Network Ireland (MHTNI) team was delighted to receive a Civic Engagement award on 3rd June 2011 from the DCU President Professor Brian MacCraith in recognition of the project work.

According to Professor Ronaldo Munck, Head of Civic and Global Engagement in DCU, the MHTNI project won The Community Impact Award because “This project is working creatively with communities, building local capacity and helping communities to develop their own solutions. It is shining a light on one of the most controversial and common topics within modern society ‘mental health’ supporting proactive knowledge sharing between health professionals, community members and people coping with mental health issues. By jointly developing solutions and improving dialogue and communications about mental health issues, the project is having a measurable impact on local communities”.

DCU President Professor Brian MacCraith explained that DCU's Civic Engagement Strategy “is focused on enhancing citizenship, delivering value back to our communities (regional, national and global) and on fostering lifelong learning”. He congratulated the team and presented the award to the core MHTNI team from DCU School of Nursing, Dr Liam Mac Gabhann, Paddy McGowan, and Lorna Ní Chéirín.

In a short speech on behalf of the team, Liam thanked DCU University and noted that the award was recognition of the importance of civic engagement as a means to empowering and supporting communities to develop themselves.

Liam thanked the consultant team members, Professor Michaela Amering and Anne Spencer, and noted that the MHTNI project was only possible due to the excellent volunteer efforts made by local facilitators and communities around Ireland who support the Trialogue meetings and process.

Finally Liam commented that we have a long way to go yet with regards to achieving the goals set out by the Vision of Change policy on mental health in Ireland, and expressed his hope that the Trialogue Network in Ireland will continue to facilitate inclusive and transformative dialogue about mental health in Ireland.

Lorna Ní Chéirín