

MEATH SCHOOLS LEAD THE WAY IN NANOSCIENCE

Loreto Secondary School Navan and Eureka Secondary School Kells scoop top prizes in national poster competition

Dublin, 21st April – Two Meath secondary schools have scooped top prizes in the national poster competition - *'What's Next for Nano?'* Loreto St Michael's Secondary School in Navan was the top winners, with Niamh Mooney, Megan O'Donnell, Akaotah Okri and Susan Whelan awarded first prize and Rachel Flynn, Benita Forte, Catherine Hughes, Clodagh Finnegan Fifth Year awarded second prize. Ellen Casey, Transition year in Eureka Secondary School, Kells was awarded third prize in the poster competition. Appropriately, the students won i-pod nanos and i-tunes vouchers!

The 'What's Next for Nano?' poster competition was organised by CRANN, the Science Foundation Ireland funded nanoscience institute, based in Trinity College Dublin (TCD) in association with the Irish Science Teachers' Association (ISTA). Earlier this year, CRANN launched an educational package, "Nano in My Life" to help secondary school science teachers bring nanoscience to their students, as part of which the national poster competition was developed. Competition entrants were asked to depict a new product involving nanotechnology based on what they learned in their science classes.

Congratulating the winners at the ISTA 50th AGM held in TCD, Mary Colclough, CRANN's Communications and Outreach Manager said, *"There is a real need to introduce secondary school students to cutting-edge nanoscience research to enhance their appreciation of scientific issues and to open their eyes to third-level opportunities. Jobs for the future are dependent on science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills. With the help of their science teachers, these students from Meath demonstrated a real understanding of the fundamentals of nanoscience. Hopefully they will be inspired to pursue nanoscience study at third-level, such as the N-PCAM degree course in TCD."*

Mary Mullaghy, incoming chairperson of ISTA said, *"This was an imaginative competition which really engaged students and required them to do their own research outside of the school curricula. It broadened their experiences of science and they have really enjoyed CRANN's "Nano in My Life" modules, which is an excellent resource with relevant, practical activities for the classroom. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with CRANN into the future. "*

To get a copy of the "Nano in My Life" package to use in schools, email nanoinmylife@tcd.ie