

YOU SEE THINGS; AND YOU SAY, "WHY?" BUT I DREAM THINGS THAT NEVER WERE; AND I SAY, "WHY NOT?"

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

OPENING ACCESS TO TEACHER EDUCATION AND PRACTICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Thursday, 15th March, 2012 Location: Dublin Castle

This conference organised by AHEAD in collaboration with the Higher Education Authority, the Irish Universities Association, the Department of Education and Skills and St. Patrick's College Drumcondra will bring together leaders in teacher education and practice. It will explore teacher education from a number of different perspectives; excellence, new innovations and the inclusion of students with disabilities.

The landscape of higher education has changed dramatically in recent years and there are now over 6,900 students with disabilities registered across all schools, a number of whom now consider teaching as a viable career option. In terms of teacher education, this presents a unique challenge as educators must think beyond the academic environment and consider how to include students with disabilities on teaching placements in schools. This conference aims to look at the interaction of themes such as excellence and the inclusion of students with disabilities. How can broadening access contribute to teacher education and enrich the teaching profession?

Opening Keynote Address:

Dr. Anne Lodge, Principal of the Church of Ireland College of Education will share with you new developments and innovations in teacher education.

Minister for Education & Skills, Ruairi Quinn TD will address the audience remotely. Other speakers will include teachers with a range of disabilities working within education. Dr. Lorraine Leeson will explore key challenges for deaf education, Dr. Elizabeth Mathews and Declan Treanor will propose ways forward to improve access for students and a panel of experts together with delegates will identify the milestones for change.

We need to hear your voice.



How much is the conference fee?

€80 for members of AHEAD

€100 for non members

Free for undergraduate students

Students must still book a place.

How do I book a place?

To book a place at this conference please visit www.ahead.ie

For more information contact AHEAD

Tel: +353 1 7164396

Email: ahead@ahead.ie

www.ahead.ie



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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 09.30 Registration and Tea/Coffee
- 10.00 Welcome and Opening - AHEAD
- 10.10 Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn, TD – Pre-recorded Video Message
- 10.20 Policy Changes in Teacher Education: Implications for Inclusion
Dr. Anne Lodge, Church of Ireland College of Education
- 10.45 Teaching through Sign Language Sean Herlihy, Mathematics Teacher
- 11.00 Personal Experience Sinead Burke, Student Teacher
- 11.10 Tea/Coffee
- 11.25 Dilemmas of Difference: What Does It Mean for Teacher Education?
Kathleen O’Leary
- 11.45 Questions and Answers
- 12.30 LUNCH**
- 13.30 Update of Policy on the Continuum of Teacher Education, Brendan O’Dea, Teaching Council
- 13.45 Supports in Teacher Education
Vivienne Byrne, St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra
- 14.00 CHOICE Matters
Declan Treanor, Director of Disability Service, Trinity College Dublin
- 14.20 Tea/Coffee
- 14.40 Seeing is Learning
Dr. Lorraine Leeson, Director, Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College, Dublin
- 15.00 Proposal for Access
Dr. Elizabeth Mathews, Education Partnership Group
- 15:20 Panel Discussion: Broad Discourse on the Next Steps - **What Needs to Happen Now?**
Facilitator:
Dr. Michael Shevlin, Head of School of Education, Trinity College Dublin
Panellists:
Prof. Kathleen Lynch, Professor of Equality Studies, University College Dublin
Brendan O’Dea, Acting CEO, Teaching Council
Dr. Mary Liz Trant, Head of National Access Office
Dr. Michael O’Keeffe, St Patricks College, Drumcondra
Philip Grehan, Teacher
- 16.30 Close**