

## Chairperson's (Edel Keating) Report:



A Stiúrthóir, a bhaill d'Ionad Oideachais Chontae Laoise agus a chairde go léir,

Fáilte róimh go léir go dtí crinniú na bliana don Ionad Oideachais anseo i gContae Laoise. Is mór an onóir is an phribhléid domsa a bheith mar chathaoirleach don bhliain seo 2014-2015. Ar dtús ba mhaith liom mo bhuóchas a ghabháil do Jim Enright ár stiúrthóir, Camille King ár iar chathaoirleach agus Rachel Farrell ár gcisteoir as an tacaíocht a thug said dom sleamhnú isteach go héasca sa ról mar chathaoirleach. Tá sé do-chreidte go bhfuil an bhliain sin tagtha chun deireadh agus b'iomaí cor is casadh a chonaiceamar san oideachas idir an dá linn.

This Centre has built up an outstanding reputation for providing challenging and rewarding courses in many vocational and education related subject areas, all delivered by experienced practitioners and designed to provide career enhancement, intellectual challenge and personal development to teachers at all stages of their careers. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our ever-changing educational landscape and focus on many of the centre's achievements and accomplishments. Laois Educational Centre plays a pivotal role in fostering a spirit of collaboration and consultation, creating a culture of creativity and displaying an ongoing commitment in the provision of local and regional services to dedicated, diligent, professional and progressive teachers in the midlands area.

While policy decisions and programme development on a national basis brought their own turbulence and tensions, opportunities and challenges, we in Laois Education Centre continue to see a growth in the number of teachers up-skilling and sharing their expertise in our centre not only during the week but also at weekends, after hours and during the Summer season. This commitment I feel should be acknowledged and commended.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all members of the Board of Management and the various sub-committees, for their continued commitment to Education in the midlands. They can be justifiably proud of their dedication and professionalism.

The success of the Centre can also be attributed to the collaboration and dedication of its administrative staff that provide a warm reception to visitors and display efficient and professional skills and qualities when managing programmes, projects, courses and events.

The myriad of projects at the Centre during 2014/2015 varied from Write-a-Book and Scríobh Leabhar to North/South Inclusive and Diversity project, from Cooperation is cool to The Heritage Project, from CRAFTed project to STEM parent/child conference and we even had an 'On the ocean' primary school competition in association with HSA allowing midland students an opportunity to familiarise themselves with water safety. The

NQT programme and the NQT outside Ireland programme were also very successful. An interesting development this past year has been our involvement with PDST, and I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our board member, Rachel Farrell on her appointment during the year as Deputy Director. The continuing cooperation between ATECI, PDST and Laois Education Centre in supporting national programmes provides an excellent example of cooperation and commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paddy Bates for his expertise in the ICT area and keeping our website updated on a continuous basis, Kathleen O'Connor for her contribution to our FÍS project and Anne Buggie for her work with the strategy group on the North/South Collaborative Initiative, Rachel Farrell on keeping our finances in check and Fiona Dunne and Kathleen O'Connor for recording minutes of our meetings.

Mar fhocail scoir, ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil do Jim Enright as an gceannaireacht forchéimní, profisiúnta agus a threorú tuisceanach foighneach sa bhliain seo na heiginnteachta. Guím gach rath air sa todhchaí mar stiúrthóir an Ionaid oideachais Laoise. Mairimid faoi scáth a chéile de réir an seanfhocail agus is fíor sin i gcás a cheannaireacht.

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