



Access to Higher Education:

Emerging Practice and Professional Challenges in a Changing Access Context

National Access Conference 23 & 24 April 2024, UCC

Day 1

10:15 Registration

11:00 Welcome

11:10 Opening Address – Programme for Access to Higher Education PATH 3

11:25 PATH 3 - A Cluster Approach: SOAR Project Inter-Institutional Partnership Case Study

12:15 PATH 3 Practice Showcase: South Cluster SOAR Project

13:15 Lunch

14:15 Parallel Sessions

Workshop One: Supporting Irish Travellers in Education

- i) **Community-Led Initiatives:** Leanne McDonagh, Traveller Education Co-Ordinator MTU Cork Campus, Christina Boland, Traveller Liaison Officer, MTU Kerry Campus
- ii) **The Social Determinants of Education:** Dr Linda Greene, Education Strategy Coordinator, Traveller Visibility Group Ltd.

Workshop Two: Mentoring for Access

Principles, Practice and Partnership: Dr Celia Keenaghan, Education Mentoring Co-Ordinator, West-North-West Connect, ATU Sligo.

Workshop Three: Enabling Transitions

Communication, Connection and Community; Developing transitions supports for autistic students within MTU: Julie O'Donovan, Disability Transition Programme Co-Ordinator; Hugh O'Donnell, Department of Mechanical & Biomedical Manufacturing Engineering; Elaine Dennehy, Project Co-Ordinator, Linked Schools Team, Access Service, MTU Cork Campus.

Workshop Four: Grassroots to Government

Impact of College Connect's MEND Community Needs Analysis on Engagement of People with Criminal Justice Histories in Higher Education through the MJMU Partnership: MEND Cluster and Mountjoy Prison Maynooth Partnership

15:15 Afternoon Break & Cluster Information Stands

15:45 PATH 3 Practice Showcase Leinster Pillar 1; West-North-West Cluster; MEND Cluster

16:30 Close

19:00 Conference Dinner – Aula Maxima (Ticketed Event)



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Day 2

09:30 Access Practitioner Study *Access Practitioners: Our Role, Our Identity, Our Vision*
Research Findings & Recommendation- Dr R Brennan

10:00 Access Practice Keynote: *Access Practitioners - Collaborators and Agents of Change*
- Muriel Alexander, Development Manager, SCAPP (Scotland's Community of Access and Participation Practitioners), University of Stirling

10:30 Access Practice Table Discussion

11:00 Morning Break - Cluster Information Stands

11:20 Table Discussion Feedback

12:15 PATH 3 Practice Showcase: TU Dublin, Mid-West Cluster

12:45 Lunch

13:45 Access Policy Keynote: *National Access Plan A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022-2028 - Challenges & Opportunities* - Dr Louise Callinan, Head of Access Policy, Higher Education Authority

14:05 Panel Discussion - NAP Implementation

15:00 Afternoon Break - Cluster Information Stands

15:30 Conference Summary - Learning, Recommendations, Actions, Key Take-Aways

16:00 Close
