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- UNESCO Chair in
- Children, Youth and Civic Engagement
- Ireland
- **CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTRE**

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An Inclusive Higher Education Initiative for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities



Pictured (L-R) are: Breda Casey, Edel Tierney (National Federation of Voluntary Bodies), Bruce Uditsky (University of Calgary), Peggy Ryan (Health Service Executive), Anne Hughson (University of Calgary), Prof. Pat Dolan, and Lorraine McIlrath (CKI)

The Registrar and Deputy President, Professor Nollaig Mac Congáil, officially launched the Going to College Project on 17 January 2011. This is an inclusive higher education initiative for persons with intellectual disabilities. The Going to College pilot project is a university/community partnership between the UNESCO Chair at the Child and Family Research Centre, the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), NUI Galway and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability. NUI Galway is currently offering places for eight students in the pilot phase that will start in September 2011. Each student will be able to: choose the subject(s) they want to study and go to classes with other students who are studying the same subject(s); take part in volunteering through the ALIVE Programme (A Learning Initiative and the Volunteering Experience); do a work placement; and join university clubs and societies. For further information please visit CKI's website on www.nuigalway.ie/cki or contact Going to College Project Coordinator, Breda Casey at breda.casey@nuigalway.ie.

Cooperation with the UNESCO Chair in Barcelona

The UNESCO Chair hosted Barcelona Football Club Foundation representatives, Ms Yolanda Antin and Ms Laura Sabate, in February. Ms. Yolanda Antin jointly holds the *UNESCO Chair in Sport as a Tool for Social Coexistence and Conflict Resolution* with the University of Catalonia. The purpose of the meeting was to explore possibilities of a joint programme of work between the two UNESCO Chairs, based on a commitment to working globally in the area of youth with a common mission around civic engagement,

sport and conflict resolution. The group met with Foróige, the Galway Chair's youth work partner, Alan Kerins Projects, NUI Galway's President, Dr. James J. Browne, as well as the Galway University Foundation Office. Following the discussions, it is intended to create a formal partnership to develop a joint programme of research and educational activities, implement shared programmes of work through exchanging a range of training and educational materials developed by the partners.

UN Expert Group Meeting on Dialogue and Mutual Understanding across Generations

Professor Pat Dolan was invited to participate in a UN Expert Group Meeting on Dialogue and Mutual Understanding across Generations, in Doha, Qatar on 8-9 March 2011. The meeting, convened in observance of the [International Year of Youth 2010 – 2011](#) and as part of the preparations for the [Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the](#)

[Family](#) 2014, was organised by the UN Programme on the Family and UN Programme on Youth in cooperation with Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development. Prof. Dolan delivered a paper entitled *Lessons Learnt from Existing Approaches to Promote Dialogue and Understanding and Enhance Youth Involvement*.

Further cooperation between UNESCO Chair and Charles University, Prague

Prof. Pat Dolan and Dr. Bernadine Brady from the Child and Family Research Centre (CFRC) took part in a two-day networking visit to Charles University in Prague in March 2011. Prof. Dolan, Dr. Brady and Dr. Gabriela Seidlová Málková from the School of Humanities at Charles University are jointly supervising the work of Tereza Brumovska, a Doctoral Fellow at the CFRC who is undertaking research into youth mentoring in the Czech Republic. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the research and to meet with staff from the Big Brothers Big Sisters youth mentoring programme in the Czech Republic. As part of the visit, Prof. Dolan and

Dr. Brady delivered public lectures to students and staff of the school of humanities, as well as invited guests from voluntary organizations in Prague. Prof. Dolan's lecture was entitled *Social Support, Resilience and its Application in Irish Social Services*, while Dr. Brady presented on *Social Capital and Civic Engagement in Irish Youth Services*. A meeting was also held with the Dean's Assistant for International Affairs, Dr. Marek Skovajsa at the Charles University, School of Liberal Arts and Humanities to discuss opportunities for collaboration. A number of potential projects were identified which will be progressed over the coming months.

The 5th biennial Child and Family Research Centre Conference 2011 *Protecting Children through Family Support*

The CFRC Conference, which will take place on Thursday and Friday 16-17 June 2011, will be officially opened by Ms. Frances Fitzgerald, T.D.; Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. The Conference will address the challenges and opportunities in effectively realising a child's right to be cared for safely within their families. The Conference has been devised with the intention of offering practitioners and other key stakeholders the space to listen, reflect and discuss these current challenges facing services for children. The theme will be explored through keynote presentations and practice workshops. The Conference will be preceded by Pre-Conference Symposium on Gender and Child Welfare on Wednesday, 15 June 2011, hosted by Professor Bríd Featherstone, School of Political Science and Sociology, NUI, Galway. To register for these events please visit www.conference.ie.

If you wish to receive any further information in relation to the UNESCO Chair you can contact us at the Child and Family Research Centre
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