



The Open Training College held the annual Conferring of Awards ceremony last November in the Concert Hall at the RDS, Dublin. It was a very special day for all 450 guests, staff and students of the College. The considerable achievements of all 125 graduands who participated in the ceremony were celebrated.

The four speakers at the ceremony were Dr. Bryan Maguire, the HETAC (Higher Education and Training Awards Council) representative, David Kenefick, Deputy CEO of St. Michaels House, Níav McNamara, a graduate of the B.A degree course, and Karen Finnerty, College Director. Each speaker paid tribute to the achievement of the student's families whose practical support and dedication have been central in supporting the achievement of the awards being conferred on the day.

The conferring of awards ceremony is also a high point in the year for the College staff and St Michael's House, whose dedication and commitment have been essential ingredients in the students' achievements, and indeed, in the success of the College. This years group of students, representing over sixty agencies from the disability sector, is the largest group of students to graduate to date.

The recipient of the Student of the Year award for 2006-2007 was Feabhra Mullally from the Certificate in Applied Management course. Feabhra, who works with St. Michaels House, Mellows Road, Finglas, received the highest average score among all of the students of the College in 2006-2007.

'Our ceremony today is a celebration of achievement as we look forward expectantly to the dynamism, creativity and vision, which our new graduands will bring to the ongoing development of services for people with disabilities in Ireland' stated Karen Finnerty, Director of the College.