

CETB Entrepreneurial Skills Graduation Carrigaline



Bottom L – R: Frances McInerney Centre Further Education and Training Carrigaline, Ita O'Regan (Tutor), John Fitzgibbons (Director, Further Education & Training), Gisela Abe, Sarah Davis (Hincks Centre, CIT).
Top L – R: Manuel Carreira Fugareli, Eleanor Coughlan, Cyril Reaney, Paula Shields, KT Tan, Pat O'Leary and Rónán O'Caomh (Co-ordinator, Further Education & Training).

Writes Ciaran Dineen

Last week, students of Cork Education and Training Board's Entrepreneurial Skills course graduated from the Carrigaline Centre of Further Education and Training. The course, a new initiative by Cork ETB and CIT, offered learners over the age of 55 the opportunity to develop a business idea. For many it was an ideal step to take in order to build upon their idea and subsequently identify the necessary actions that would need to be taken to produce the product or service. On Wednesday July 24th, the graduates, from different areas in Cork, donned their caps and gowns and were awarded their official certificates for completing the course. Presenting the awards was Cork ETB's Director of Further Education and Training, **Mr. John**

Fitzgibbons, who commended all those who took part. John remarked that "it takes courage to come forward and put yourself out there", noting that no matter what background you have or how old you may be, if you have an idea and the interest to develop it, you can achieve your goals. Speaking to *The Carrigdhoun Newspaper*, with their graduation certificates in-hand were **Gisela Abe** of Blackrock and **Pat O'Leary** of Kinsale. Gisela was the oldest member taking part in the course and is originally from Germany, by way of Australia, Singapore and Malaysia. She hopes to set up her own translating business from home and learned a great deal from her time with Cork ETB. "I would definitely recommend the course to other people", she commented. "I think it is great for people who are

55 or 65 and retired because it gives them a chance to do something else and I think that is really important." Pat meanwhile, wants to create his own Tour Guide company that will bring tourists and history buffs around West Cork. Pat explained that for some time now he was searching for the right course to take, eventually picking this one, and he wasn't left disappointed. "It really has given me a lot of confidence in myself. What was great about this course was that there is a certain age category of people who are all in a similar situation to you, so you quickly realise that you're not on your own here", the Kinsale resident explains. "I'm also a teacher and the course fell at a perfect time for me with school finishing up. I think it's really important for people in my profession to keep upskilling and keep the mind fresh from what we

normally do. The other people in the group were great to talk with and I was able to bounce ideas off them, so overall it was well worth it!". This new initiative was designed to enable older people to develop their business ideas with the goal of launching their own start-up. The course modules included: Introduction to entrepreneurship, Skills mapping and analysis, Idea generation for business, Business development, planning and funding/supports, Networking and group-work and Marketing. The Entrepreneurial Skills Course is only one of a wide range of courses on offer in the Carrigaline Further Education and Training Centre. For courses in Carrigaline or other areas please go to: www.fetchcourses.ie. For more information about Cork Education and Training Board please go to: www.corketb.ie