

## News Release

### Trinity Employability Award prepares students for future careers

#### Winners of the Trinity Employability Award announced

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – The winners of Trinity Employability Award, an initiative in partnership with Intel, are third year students, **Rebecca Kelly** and **Dale Chen**. The announcement was made at a special ceremony in Trinity. Trinity joined forces with Intel in the new pioneering **Trinity Employability Award** to increase students' 'career readiness' for future employment.

Thirty-nine, third year students from the Schools of Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science and Statistics took part in the programme, the first of its kind in Ireland.

Announcing the winners, **Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast**, congratulated all of the students who participated in the programme: "We want to prepare students for the ever changing challenges of the 21st century workforce. The Trinity Employability Award has set out to do this, helping our students develop Trinity graduate attributes through a combination of training and experience. We are especially delighted to be doing this in conjunction with Intel Ireland, the first industry partner to support this initiative."

As part of the programme the students participated in a specialist curriculum that further developed their skills and graduate attributes to succeed in their studies and career. They attended Intel-led workshops using problem-solving methodologies and applied learning to work-related situations. They also enhanced personal and professional development through thirty hours of extra-curricular activity, and learnt how to critically reflect on their skills and articulate these to employers through a workshop led by the Careers Advisory Service with Student Learning Development.

**Intel Ireland General Manager Eamonn Sinnott said:** "The world around us is changing at an unbelievable pace which in turn is transforming the workplace and revolutionising the kinds of jobs that will be available to future graduates. More than ever a focus on fundamental skills and employability attributes will be vital for students and for that reason we are delighted to be collaborating with Trinity as the first industry partner to support this employability award."

Six finalists gave stellar presentations on the night of the award ceremony, and after much deliberation the judging panel selected the winning two.

All participants who successfully completed the Employability Award programme received a certificate of recognition, and the six finalists received tablets. The two overall finalists received a cash prize of €2,500 Intel prize.

**Ends**

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### ***Profiles of the winners:***

#### **Rebecca Kelly**

Rebecca Kelly, is one of the overall winners of the Trinity Employability Award, is a third year student in **Nanoscience, Physics and Chemistry of Advanced Materials**. Rebecca found a number of things to be particularly helpful to her going forward, singling out the STAR method for interviews as a very useful tool which she learned in one of the workshops. Rebecca said that through the programme she is more confident in her own abilities and confident to go for roles that she may want in the futures. "I think the award is a great experience. I think the fact that we work with people from all different aspects of STEM mimics the work environment and therefore prepares us. I feel more confident in my ability to get roles I would seek in the future and also to perform in those roles," said Rebecca. Rebecca will now be taking up an internship during the summer and starting up a research project in September.

#### **Dale Chen**

Dale Chen, is also one of the winners of the Trinity Employability Award and is currently a third year student studying Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. Dale describes his progress through the Trinity Employability Award as a "journey of continuous development" and he believes that the work with the award has allowed him to develop his interviewing and communication skills. Dale's new interviewing skills went into practice very recently. Last month he went for an interview for an internship in Kilkenny. Dale was proud to say that he had secured the internship he had interviewed for and will be taking it up during this summer break. In addition to his interviewing skills, Dale said his communications skills have vastly improved as well. "My communication skills were one of my attributes I've developed in this programme and as part of the programme I took part in 30 hour extracurricular activities and I really enjoyed working with the programme in the last year with Trinity." said Dale

#### **Notes to Editors**

The Trinity Employability Award in partnership with Intel was launched in 2016 along with an Intel Postgraduate Student Sponsorship Programme which saw 15 Trinity College Dublin students awarded with monetary grant as well as ongoing support and mentoring provided by Intel.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between Intel and Trinity by the General Manager Intel Ireland & Vice President of the Technology Manufacturing Group, Eamonn Sinnott, and Trinity's Provost and President Patrick Prendergast. The partnership aims to further connect Intel and Trinity researchers and students to help fuel the innovation economy here in Ireland and create jobs.