

news

Talent boost for pharma and medtech sectors in Mid-West

■ New course in Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Operations

INNOPHARMA Education in collaboration with the Mid-West Regional Skills forum are pleased to announce the launch of a second Springboard+ funded programme in Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Operations due to current high demand in the region by industry for these skills.

This course has been run in Limerick since 2014 with participants securing employment in the Medical Device, Pharmaceutical and Biopharmaceutical sector. Previous course participants have secured employment in local companies such as Amneal, Beckman Coulter, Cook Medical, Edwards Life Science, Johnson & Johnson Vision, Regeneron, SSE (Specialised Sterile Environments), Stryker, Teleflex Medical and Zimmer.

This Level 6 Programme in Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices can be completed at a pace that can fit around working commitments in a flexible manner and Innopharma Education have also developed its own additional



From left to right: Mary Jo Parker, Business Development Manager, Innopharma Education; Ann Ryan, Innopharma Education and Joe Leddin, Regional Skills Manager, Mid-West.

online modules that are used to supplement learning.

Joe Leddin, Regional Skills Manager, stated: "Talent is the number determining factor for companies and we are extremely fortunate to have a growing cluster of companies in the Pharma and Med-Tech area that are experiencing positive employment

growth as they expand their operations to meet market demands. This additional course is a reflection on our agility as a region to respond and meet the growing skills needs of these industry sectors with students assured of promising and rewarding careers."

Regardless of your career background there are a range of job roles that can be secured post the programme including Production Operator/Technician, Maintenance Technicians, Team Leaders, Manufacturing Supervisors, Process Improvement roles, Administration, Quality Control or Quality Assurance.

The strong existing base of IDA clients in the medical device and pharmaceutical sector and recent investments by companies like Regeneron and MeiraGTx strongly endorses the Mid-West's and Ireland's reputation as a key location for the Life Sciences sector according to Will Corcoran, Regional Manager, Mid-West IDA Ireland.

John Lynch, Plant leader at Johnson & Johnson Vision, added: "We welcome the launch of the second Springboard+ funded level 6 programme in Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Operations. We have a high demand for these skills here in Johnson &

Johnson Vision and the Mid-West. It works well for us that this course can fit around work schedules and we have now a number of employees from this programme."

Innopharma Education also offer a suite of follow up programmes that allow participants to continue their learning and upskilling while in employment in order to advance their careers up to and including Level 9 masters programmes. To date over 850 students been trained through the Limerick programmes in the past 6 years to support the Mid-West and wider Western regions.

Springboard+ programmes at Level 6 are free to both unemployed and employed and as an training provider we are delighted to partner with the Regional Skills forum in response to the skills needs in these sectors. Over 50% of all vacancies currently within the region are in the STEM area. The Pharma and Med-Tech sectors currently support over 100,000 jobs in Ireland with further employment growth rates forecasted.

Mary Jo Parker, Business Relationship Manager with Innopharma Education commented: "The programmes are designed in consultation with industry which ensures that the

programmes are current and reflect industry needs. All of Innopharma programmes include coaching for Personal and Career Development whether that involves in the case of an unemployed person who requires assistance with CV preparation and interview skills. The feedback we consistently get from our course participants is that these elements of the course prove invaluable to job searching and securing the role."

Kieran Edwards who completed the programme in 2019, and has been working as a Perkin Elmer contractor on site at Regeneron in Limerick this year. "One of the concepts that was emphasised during the course was the phrase 'Transferable Skills'. I've been able to put this to good effect by combining my IT industry experience with relevant concepts from the Level 6 course in particular from the Quality Assurance and Quality Control modules studied.

FURTHER DETAILS ON COURSES

"Mary Jo Parker invites anyone interested to contact us on 061 639186 or email at Limerick@innopharmalabs.com and each person will be contacted and spoken with on a one-to-one basis.

Nenagh Credit Union prizewinners and scholarship recipient at CBS



ABOVE: Winners of the Nenagh Credit Union Art Competition from St Joseph's CBS pictured with Ms Ann Fagan, SNA and Mrs Beatrice Morrissey, art teacher. From left: Eoghan Coffey, Adam Hough, Jack Mooney and Nicholas Maher.

RIGHT: Pádraig Cody, past pupil at St Joseph's CBS, who was awarded a prestigious Naughton Scholarship, based on his academic excellence in the 2020 Leaving Cert.



Congratulations to all the prizewinners who entered the most recent Credit Union Art Competition. There were several winners from St Justin's class. Ronan Radler Shinnors, TY, also received a prize for his work in this competition. Mrs Beatrice Morrissey has been a staunch supporter of this competition over the years and her classes have been very successful, winning in almost every year that the school has entered. Pictured is Ronan Radler Shinnors, winner of a prize in the Nenagh Credit Union Competition, with Art Teacher Ms Morrissey at St Joseph's CBS, Nenagh.