

# Women in STEM Awards 2023

## Awards shine a light on those making a true impact in the STEM industry

The inaugural event included special awards for Dr Eilish McLoughlin of DCU and Tracey-Jane Cassidy, founder of Junior Einsteins Science Club

The inaugural Women in STEM Awards in partnership with PepsiCo were held at the Round Room in the Mansion House, Dublin on Thursday, October 26.

Hosted by Jess Kelly, technology correspondent at Newstalk and *Connected* magazine columnist, the awards were launched this year following the success of the Women in STEM Summit held annually in March.

Attended by over 370 guests, the event celebrated the incredible achievements and innovations of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Ireland.

The 15 award categories showcase leading companies and organisations in Ireland that are creating diverse, equitable and inclusive workplaces to foster a culture of innovation and creativity, and provide the necessary support for women in STEM to reach their full potential.

The awards provided a much-needed platform to shine a light on the amazing women who are breaking barriers, pushing boundaries and making a significant impact in their fields.

The awards were judged by a panel of industry experts including:

- Anne-Marie Tierney Le-Roux, senior vice-president, Enterprise Technology, IDA Ireland
- Colin Mac Hale, EMEA sales director, 30 Per Cent Club Ireland
- Gillian Harford, country executive, Women in Technology & Science (WITS)
- Jean O'Donnell, board member, Women in Technology & Science (WITS)
- Meabh Smith, director of communications, Construction Industry Federation
- Peter Clifford, head of strategy, Science Foundation Ireland
- Susan Treacy, chief executive, HealthTech Ireland



**By highlighting these women's accomplishments, we can encourage girls to pursue STEM careers**



As well as the 15 nominated awards, the judging panel also awarded two special recognition awards to women worthy of distinct acknowledgement. The Judges' Impact Award went to Tracey-Jane Cassidy, Founder and CEO of Junior Einsteins Science Club for her passion in creating a love of STEM and learning through children's natural curiosity, creativity and imagination.

The Outstanding Achievement Award went to Dr. Eilish McLoughlin, Associate Professor and Head of the School of Physical Sciences and STEM Teacher Internship (STInt) Programme, Dublin City University. The programme provides students and early career STEM teachers with the opportunity of a paid-internship experience in STEM focused roles and careers in global corporate firms. The concept, vision and design of the programme is led by Dr. McLoughlin and the judges noted her passion for sharing her experiences and research with teachers, educators, business leaders and researchers across the globe not just as part of her day job, but as part of her life job.

John Morrissy, chief information officer and chairman of STEM, PepsiCo Ireland, noted, "We are delighted to sponsor the Women in STEM Awards as we join together to celebrate the incredible achievements by all who are

inspiring the next generation of female innovators and leaders in Ireland."

Women in STEM Awards and Summit director Grace Aungier was pleased with how the awards ceremony had

Lorna Martyn, Ireland regional chair and senior vice president, technology, Fidelity Investments Ireland and team accepting the Women in STEM Employer of the Year Award

Pictures: Fintan Clarke

### Winners announced on the night included:

- **Women in STEM Award - Health Technology**  
Lorraine Smyth - HSE
- **Women in STEM Award - Engineering**  
Paula Sequeira - Workday
- **STEM Recruitment Campaign of the Year**  
Suzi McKeown - Energia Group
- **Male Champion of Change Award**  
John Keaney - SIRO
- **Women in STEM Award - Technology**  
Brid Nolan - PepsiCo
- **STEM Mentor of the Year Award**  
Sheila Porter - SciFest CLG
- **Diversity & Inclusion Initiative of the Year Award**  
STEM Passport for Inclusion - Dr Katriona O'Sullivan
- **STEM Employer of the Year Award**  
Fidelity Investments Ireland
- **Women in STEM Award - Energy**  
Éadaoin McLoughlin - Energia Renewables
- **Role Model of the Year Award**  
Priscilla O'Regan - BT Ireland
- **Female STEM Graduate of the Year Award**  
Hazel Murray - Munster Technological University
- **Women in STEM Award - Science**  
Dr Abigail Ruth Freeman - Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)
- **Rising Star of the Year Award**  
Jennifer McGarry - Alexandra College Junior School
- **STEM Woman of the Year Award**  
Louise Callanan - HSE
- **Outstanding Returner Award**  
Shyamly Suresh - AIB

gone. She said: "The *Business Post* and iQuest are honoured to be facilitating an event that supports and acknowledges the incredible achievements of women in STEM in Ireland and will inspire the next generation.

"By highlighting their accomplishments, we can encourage young girls and women to pursue careers in STEM, overcome obstacles and make a difference in their fields. It is in this same vein that we will be holding the Women in STEM Summit in March 2024 to continue to drive the dialogue around innovation to create a more inclusive and equitable world for all."

The event was organised by iQuest & the *Business Post* and sponsored by PepsiCo, Codex, Schneider Electric, BAM Ireland and Fidelity Investments Ireland



Paula Sequeira, director, Software Development Engineering at Workday with her award for Women in STEM - Engineering category



John Keaney, chief executive of SIRO - winner of the Male Champion of Change at the Women in STEM Awards



Winner of the Women in STEM Award in Energy - Éadaoin McLoughlin, project manager, Energia Renewables



Dr Katriona O'Sullivan, senior lecturer in the Assisting Living & Learning Institute, Department of Psychology, Maynooth University, winner of the Diversity & Inclusion Initiative of the Year Award for the STEM Passport for Inclusion project



Louise Callanan, eHealth director and CIO, assistant national director with the HSE, receiving the STEM Woman of the Year Award from Grace Aungier, Women in STEM Summit and Awards Director with iQuest and *Business Post*



Winner of the Women in STEM Outstanding Achievement Award, associate professor and head of the School of Physical Sciences and STEM Teacher Internship (STInt) programme lead at Dublin City University, Dr Eilish McLoughlin



Breda Kennedy, R&D senior director at PepsiCo, presenting Priscilla O'Regan, head of communications, BT Ireland the Women in STEM Role Model of the Year Award



Sheila Porter, founder and chief executive at SciFest CLG with her award for Women in STEM Mentor of the Year



Annie Chow, strategy lead, Connecting Women in Technology (CWIT), presenting Brid Nolan, global IT operations manager at PepsiCo the Women in STEM Technology Award