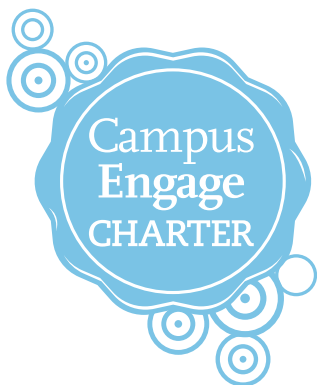# CAMPUS ENGAGE CHARTER FOR CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

IRISH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS HAVE ENGAGED SINCE THEIR BEGINNINGS WITH OTHER SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ACTORS, AT LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF 'ENGAGEMENT' IN ALL ITS FACETS IS NOW RECOGNISED BY THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, 2030 WHICH STATES THAT: "HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS SHOULD HAVE OPEN ENGAGEMENT WITH THEIR COMMUNITY AND WIDER SOCIETY AND THIS SHOULD INFUSE EVERY ASPECT OF THEIR MISSION".

Campus Engage has been established by Irish higher education institutions to provide a national platform for the enhancement and co-ordination of civic and community engagement across the sector. It will share best practice and drive national and regional coordinated initiatives in the areas of community-based research and learning, student volunteering and the sharing of knowledge and resources with wider society.

This *Charter for Civic and Community Engagement* is designed to capture some of the basic principles and the underlying purpose of engagement with wider society as well as with enterprise. It is signed by the Presidents of Ireland's higher education institutions as a sign of commitment to build on what has been achieved to date and place Ireland at the fore internationally in terms of promoting civic and community engagement in higher education.

The Charter will be accompanied by a menu of indicators, which can be of use to institutions in gauging if and how they are meeting the ten basic principles contained in the Charter. Each institution engages with enterprise and society in different ways and the indicators are not meant to be prescriptive. Rather, Campus Engage seeks to encourage diversity and pluralism in the complex and evolving world of civic and community engagement.

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CampusEngage

ICTI Institutes of Technology Ireland

HEA Higher Education Authority An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS SCILEANNA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

www.campusengage.ie

Campus Engage CHARTER

ONE

We, the Irish Higher Education Institutions, wish to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our higher education institutions over the years, pursuing engagement with local communities, and society at large, for the common good;

TWO

We will continue to promote civic and community engagement through the mission and strategy of our institutions wherever possible;

THREE

We will promote civic and community engagement through a variety of community-based learning, community-based research, public scholarship and volunteering activities and seek to align these with the overall teaching, research and outreach missions of our institutions;

FOUR

We will continue to build a campus community imbued with a civic culture through our use of space, cultural activities, commitment to diversity, co-operation with partners, student civic engagement and all relevant operational practices;

FIVE

We will pursue, through a variety of means, our aspiration to open our campuses to local communities, and our social, arts, cultural, academic and sports activities will, where possible, promote local community engagement and partnership;

SIX

We will contribute to the widening participation and lifelong learning agendas by promoting civic and community engagement, combating disadvantage and furthering the social inclusion mission of higher education;

SEVEN

We will partner with relevant stakeholders and agencies to promote our institutions as hubs of engagement activity in order to actively address the local and regional development, regeneration and research agendas;

EIGHT

Our campus and all our activities will be informed by the sustainability agenda in recognition that a 'green campus' contributes to community well-being and economic development;

NINE

We will continue to promote the engagement of our institutions with the wider society through two-way knowledge exchanges, and actively communicate the social relevance and impact of our research and teaching activities as broadly as possible;

TEN

We will continue to advocate for appropriate resources, both financial and human, to achieve high impact civic and community engagement activities to maintain and build on what we have achieved to date.