

Cónaidhm Éireannach na Múinteoirí Ollscoile

Irish Federation of University Teachers

PRESS RELEASE – 22 APRIL 2009

IFUT ANNUAL DELEGATE CONFERENCE 2009

President Mary McAleese and former President Mary Robinson have sent messages of support to the Annual Conference of the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT).

Messages have also been sent by the former South African Minister of Education, Professor Kader Asmal, as well as Senator Ivana Bacik and Senator David Norris.

All of the above are either current or former members of the union.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, former Taoiseach and a member of IFUT, will address the union's Annual Delegate Conference on Saturday 25 April 2009. Dr Fitzgerald made history by being the first ever Taoiseach to be a paid-up member of an ICTU-affiliated trade union.

The full text of President McAleese's message to IFUT is as follows:

“I am pleased to extend warm greetings to the Irish Federation of University Teachers on the occasion of your Annual Delegate Conference 2009.

“Although it is quite some time now since I last taught in University, I do remember the importance of being a member of IFUT, which like any other staff association or union carries out a vital and necessary role in the proper

regulation and management of the working environment. I commend the voluntary service that the many local representatives and delegates perform for their colleagues and the support and leadership that the Secretariat provides. The success of our education system has been one of the great achievements of the Celtic Tiger era and in these more uncertain economic times the role that third-level education can play in renewing our stalled prosperity is more important than ever. IFUT members will play a pivotal role in this renewal and I wish delegates every success in your deliberations.

“Gúim gach rath ar bhur gComhdháil agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh agus tairbhe as bhur n-oibre.”

Mary McAleese,
President of Ireland.

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