

Junior Chamber Galway begins search for Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Are you an innovative, aspiring, ambitious entrepreneur waiting to be recognised and awarded for your success? Well, now is your chance to avail of the recognition, training, prestige, and publicity associated with Galway's premier competition for business owners — the search has begun for the Galway Young Entrepreneur of 2005.

Now in its seventh year, the Galway Young Entrepreneur Award got off to a momentous start when it was launched on Tuesday by Deputy Mayor of Galway Collette Connolly.

This year's launch organised by JCI Galway was hosted by the Forster Court Hotel and was attended by Robert O'Keefe and Julie Tierney of the *Galway Advertiser*; Mark Gibbs of Price Waterhouse Coopers, Galway; 2004 winner Declan Garry of Arabica; president JCI Galway Máirín O'Reilly, as well as former winners and patrons of JCI.

While launching the competition, the Deputy Mayor encouraged young entrepreneurs to enter the competition primarily for the experience and opportunities it offers, including the recognition they receive throughout the competition, whether they be winners or not.

She acknowledged and praised the efforts of Junior Chamber International, Galway and the *Galway Advertiser* for running a competition which actively seeks to recognise and reward those who have taken a risk to go it alone in business.

The competition is open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 40 years, who is an owner/manager and is primarily responsible for the performance of his/her business. The nominated business must also be operational for a minimum of one year and located within Galway county.

Recognition and encouragement

The competition aims to recognise and encourage entrepreneurial accomplishment in the Galway region and works on the same ethos of opportunity upon which JCI Galway is based.

According to award director Gina Kearns: "The competition highlights the accomplishments of entrepreneurs and rewards entrepreneurial endeavour in Galway, and thus acts as a means of encouraging and developing indigenous, sustainable, employment, which is vital to the region in the current economic climate."

President of Junior Chamber International, Galway, Máirín O'Reilly, thanked both the *Galway Advertiser* and Price Waterhouse Coopers for their unwavering support over the previous six years, which has contributed greatly to the growth and success of the competition, and looks forward to future partnership with them.

Last year's winner, Declan Garry, of Arabica, Galway, spoke of the

encouragement and inspiration he received through the Young Entrepreneur Award 2004. Since winning this prestigious award he has opened another Arabica outlet in Liosbaun, which adds to his business portfolio. His success story is truly inspiring for anyone considering setting up his/her own business.

Competition details

Over the next six weeks, entrants will be assessed by an independent panel of judges who will examine each company under areas such as innovation of business practices, operating success, growth, and strategy.

Finalists will be announced by the *Galway Advertiser* on November 17 so watch this space! They will then be short-listed and the award recipient will be announced at an awards ceremony on November 25.

The award ceremony will be an evening event where the finalists will give a short presentation on their business, and their story so far. The most previous winners of the

competition include Mike O'Connor of Bellissimo (winner 2002), and Liam Dilleen of EZ Living Furniture (winner 2003).

The highlight of the evening will be the awards dinner, culminating in the announcement of this year's winner of the Galway Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The winner of the competition receives a Price Waterhouse Coopers Consultancy package to the value of €5,000 which is a hugely significant addition to any company, offering an invaluable amount of financial advice and consultancy essential to the continual and further development of any business.

The prize also includes extensive coverage in the *Galway Advertiser*, an aspect of the prize which has attracted many entrants and winners to the competition, and gives a huge amount of company promotion to the winner of the competition.

Entry forms and information packs are available from the JCI organising committee and entry fee is €50. Cheques should be made payable to Junior Chamber International Galway.

The entry fee entitles each candidate the opportunity to compete

in the judging process and learn from the experience, as well as publicity through the *Galway Advertiser* and an invitation to attend the awards ceremony dinner.

If you feel you would benefit from the experience this prestigious competition has to offer then contact Gina Kearns at 086 3451996 or Celine

O'Donovan at 087 6920033 for more information. You can apply to Junior Chamber International Galway, Young Entrepreneur Competition, PO Box 99, Galway, for an entry form, or visit the website www.juniorchambergalway.com/gye. Closing date for receipt of applications is 6pm on Friday October 28.



Máirín O'Reilly president of Junior Chamber International Galway with Robert O'Keefe sales manager of *Galway Advertiser* at the launch of Galway Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2005 organised by Junior Chamber International Galway. Photo:—Mike Shaughnessy



also there were Mark Gibbs senior manager Price Waterhouse Coopers with Gina Kearns chairperson of Junior Chamber International Galway.



...and Declan McGarry MD Arabica Café winner of the Young Entrepreneur 2004, with Carol Guilfoyle Junior Chamber International Galway, and Deputy Mayor, Colette Connolly.



At the launch of Galway Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2005 were Michael Coyle CEO Galway Chamber, Adele Clinton PRO Junior Chamber International Galway, and John Madden president of Galway Chamber.



...and Julie Tierney of Galway Advertiser, 2004 winner Declan Garry, and 2004 president JCI Galway Alan Maher.