Friday 7 December 2007 THE GALWAY VOICE NEWS 2

the Leaving Cert, college lectures at nine am...but education is not just change the world. Not all will secure a Nobel Prize, but there are other ways to two individuals who have managed to make a difference.

Be ALIVE at university

Name: Lorraine Tansey

Student Volunteer Coordinator with ALIVE Programme at CKI

PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science and Sociology

Contact: lorraine.tansey@nuigalway.ie

Lorraine hopes students will become more involved with volunteering through NUIG's ALIVE programme

Biography:
Lorraine is doing a PHD in the department of Political Science and Sociology. Her research topic is 'The impact of volunteering on young people's sense of civic duty'.

Lorraine is employed by the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI). The Community Knowledge Initiative at NUI Galway supports and promotes the ethos of civic engagement among students, staff and the wider community. Through partnerships with community groups and organisations, the CKI helps the University share with, and learn from, civil society. Whether supporting volunteering among students, integrating community into teaching or researching social needs – the aim is to reinvigorate the civic mission of higher education in Ireland by engaging with the wider community.

www.nuigalway.ie/cki

What aspects of Development Education (DE) are included in your work?
Lorraine's work revolves around the practice of fostering civic engagement. This work has a huge overlap with a 'global citizenship' type interpretation of Development Education. She is involved in facilitating volunteering by students and encouraging 'service learning' placements for students. Her work also involves identifying the opportunities for partnerships with community organisations in Ireland and abroad. (Service Learning is a pedagogical tool which encourages students to learn and explore issues vital to society, inside and outside the classroom. Students learn from engaging with communities by active participation. Academic staff guide students through this process through structured reflection and the integration of theory and practice. Communities involved in Service Learning can be charities, non-governmental organisations, statutory bodies, community associations or organisations with a focus on social responsibility.) Academics within NUI Galway can benefit from the opportunities service learning and volunteering provide for their students to engage with their curriculums in context.

Are you are involved in teaching courses with DE components?
Lorraine organises training both in house and by external providers such as Comhlamh and the Galway One World Centre to prepare students who intend to volunteer overseas. As part of knowledge sharing initiative the CKI also runs seminars and hosts seminars on topics relating to civic engagement.

See the CKI website: www.nuigalway.ie/cki.ie for video clips of relevance.

Do you have interests or involvement in particular countries or regions?
The CKI is focused mainly on Ireland even though it is involved in international volunteering programmes. Its research activities are engaged with comparing best practice Europe wide for youth citizenship activities.

What other activities are you involved in that concern DE?
Many of the initiatives of CKI concern DE for example the Volunteer Fair that they host annually is an opportunity for people to engage with volunteer opportunities internationally. They work with VSA and Suas and many other such local to global focused organisations.