

Winner of Inaugural Hooper Dolan Financial Graduate Excellence Award Announced at W.I.T.

The winner of the inaugural Hooper Dolan Financial Graduate Excellence Award was announced at the recent Dean's List Award Ceremony held at W.I.T. Andrea McNamara from Clonmel, Tipperary, a Business Studies graduate was chosen by the Institute's School of Business lecturers in recognition of her outstanding achievement during her time at W.I.T.

Chosen from undergraduates from the School of Business' eight undergraduate degrees, Andrea was presented with her specially commissioned commemorative sculpture, designed by local artist Pat Cunningham, and a significant cash prize.

The Graduate Excellence Award was developed by local financial services firm, Hooper Dolan Financial, in partnership with the School of Business at Waterford Institute of Technology.

The award has been designed to reward the graduate who has both demonstrated academic excellence and made a real contribution to the School of Business by displaying noteworthy interpersonal and entrepreneurial skills or business acumen throughout their degree.

Commenting on the announcement of the inaugural winner of the Award, John Smiles, Managing Director, Hooper Dolan Financial said "We are delighted to reward Andrea for the excellence she has displayed throughout her degree. Over the years we have been exposed to the high calibre of Business students from W.I.T. and have always been thoroughly impressed with their knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment. I hope that this award will inspire Andrea to continue to achieve great things throughout her career and I wish her all the very best for the future".

"This award, and others like it, rewards the exceptional achievement and talent of Andrea and our other graduates. We are very proud of this year's School of Business graduates, and would like to express our thanks to Hooper Dolan Financial for their commitment to reward our graduates in this way" said Dr. Tom O'Toole, Head of School of Business, W.I.T.

The South East's leading Financial Services Firm, Hooper Dolan Financial has had a long relationship to date with the School of Business, having been involved with the School's Student Work Placement Programmes for over seven years.

"Our company has been motivated to develop the Graduate Excellence Award in partnership with the School of Business by our desire to give something back to the Institute, which has supplied, not only our business, but a high number of other local businesses, with talented graduates" concluded John Smiles.

The award, a piece of sculpture designed by local artist Pat Cunningham, consists of three curved shapes set at intervals or 'floating' on a triangular spire. Speaking about his inspiration for the design of the award Pat Cunningham said "The shapes represent the three elements of the award - W.I.T., Hooper Dolan Financial and the winning Graduate and the association of excellence between all three. The use of the spire inspires the notions both of aiming high in the pursuit of Excellence and the ambition of each of the individual elements".

Formed in Waterford in 2000 and based on Adelphi Quay, Hooper Dolan Financial offers independent financial advice in Mortgages & Lending, Life & Pensions and Savings & Investments. The company recently announced the expansion of their business with the opening of a new branch in Carlow town.

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