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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS GRANTS FOR FIVE KERRY SCHOOLS TO COUNTY KERRY
MAYOR MICHAEL O'SHEA**

Boston, MA—The Irish American Partnership hosted Kerry County Mayor Michael O'Shea this morning at a business roundtable event to discuss economic growth, community development, and expansion of educational opportunity in County Kerry. Councillor O'Shea and Kerry Tourism Officer John Griffin are in Boston to promote tourism, trade, and foreign direct investment in the county, which has not yet recovered from the devastating effects of the recession. In recognition of their visit, Partnership Chief Executive Mary Sugrue presented Councillor Michael O'Shea with grants totaling \$10,000 for five schools in Kerry.

Councillor O'Shea and Tourism Officer Griffin spoke at length about the challenges posed by Ireland's two-tiered economic recovery, which has left coastal villages along the Western seaboard struggling to survive. Councillor O'Shea commented that the small family farm that was once the mainstay of Kerry life can no longer survive due to rising expenses and the current regulatory climate. He added that the uncertainty of Brexit and looming potential for high tariffs on exports to the UK already cost the Irish economy nearly 600 million euro. Mr. Griffin noted that the lack of employment in rural Kerry is annihilating small towns and asked the roundtable guests to consider Kerry should they wish to expand their business or begin an enterprise in Ireland.

Partnership Chief Executive Mary Sugrue presented grants for Nagle Rice Primary School in Milltown, Castledrum National School in Castlemaine, Castlemaine National School in Castlemaine, Scoil Naisiunta Eoin Baiste in Lispole, and Murhur National School in Moyvane. Councillor O'Shea thanked the Partnership on behalf of all of the schools, emphasizing the transformational impact these grants will have. He noted that the schools would need to fundraise for 12 months to achieve a sum of this size, which will allow them to bridge the gap between government funding and the actual needs of the school. While secondary and university level education is well-supported by government grants, primary schools are often left to their own devices to procure funds for special education services, technology, and even basic supplies such as library books. He emphasized the continuing need for the Partnership's grants, which can make all the difference in a child's educational experience.

In acknowledgment of Mary Sugrue's commitment to Irish education and community development, Councillor O'Shea and Tourism Officer Griffin presented her with a piece of the first successful transatlantic cable, which linked Valentia, Ireland with Newfoundland, Canada, ushering in a new chapter in the transatlantic relationship. Ms. Sugrue was honored to accept the gift, which has great personal significance due to her County Kerry roots.



THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Supporting Education & Community in Ireland, North & South

The Irish American Partnership works to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives and community development programs in Ireland North and South through direct grants to primary schools, science teacher training, university access scholarships, employment learning programs, and more. The Partnership provides forums for visiting leaders from Ireland to speak in the U.S., connecting Irish-Americans with their heritage and promoting economic development through tourism, trade, and mutual exchange.

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Father William Joy, Kerry County Mayor Michael O'Shea, Partnership Chief Executive Mary Sugrue, Sean Moynihan



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