



2025 School of Engineering Industry & Careers Day Speaker Biographies

Kate O’Callaghan is an Energy Systems Engineer with a passion for sustainability, renewable energy, and asset management. Her path into engineering was anything but traditional. After secondary school, she explored different courses but struggled to find the right fit, and instead, she spent several years working and traveling before returning to full-time education at 26 to study Energy Engineering at University College Cork. Graduating with a First-Class Honours Integrated Master’s degree and the prestigious Joe Gantly Award in 2024, Kate has since worked in renewable energy, specializing in onshore and offshore wind, battery energy storage (BESS), and energy efficiency solutions. Now at Ever.Ag, she helps businesses in the agricultural and manufacturing sector optimize energy use and improve sustainability through data-driven strategies.



Orla Burke is a Chartered and Fellow Engineer with extensive experience in the global energy sector. She has successfully led and managed complex projects across multiple countries in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. She recently took up the role of Sustainability Manager, Engineering and Major Projects, ESB to lead on and support delivery of the ESB sustainability strategy and embed sustainability at the core of engineering solutions and project delivery.



Martina Kenny has over 22 years experience in the energy sector and diverse management experience in the areas of design, infrastructure, contracting, project delivery, strategic and organisation transformation. She is currently responsible for the delivery of a significant portfolio of projects connected to the transmission network, all contributing towards Ireland’s clean electric future by connecting renewables and enabling Low Carbon Technologies.

Dr. Ronan Royston oversees the design and delivery of major infrastructure projects for Ward and Burke Construction across the UK and Ireland, with a particular focus on the Water Industry. He employs an interdisciplinary approach encompassing geotechnical, structural, electrical, and mechanical design, through the procurement, construction, commissioning, and operational stages. Ronan completed a DPhil at the University of Oxford, focusing on soil-structure interaction for large diameter caissons. His research concentrated on the design and construction of large underground pumping stations and tunnels. In recognition of his contributions to engineering, he was awarded the James Rennie Medal for best Chartered Engineer by the Institute of Civil Engineers in 2022. Ronan also serve as an Adjunct Associate Professor in Civil Engineering at the University of Limerick.



Emer Sweetnam is a Graduate Engineer at Eli Lilly Kinsale. She grew up in Kilbrittain and attended Colaiste na Toirbhirte in Bandon for her secondary school education. In 2024, she graduated from UCC with a Masters in Process and Chemical Engineering. When not working, she enjoys traveling and discovering new places

