

## Advancing Civic and Community Engagement in UCC and the Irish Higher Education Sector

Dr. Elaine Ward, Carnegie Foundation and Merrimack College USA.

**Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 9:30am-11.00am**

**Venue: O’Rahilly Building (ORB), Room 255**

In 2015, nine Irish higher education institutions worked with the U.S. Carnegie Foundation to self-assess their civic and community engagement efforts. In this presentation Dr. Ward will share how this Irish institutional assessment process evidences the commitment, momentum, and practice regarding the centrality of community and civic engagement within higher education in Ireland. The session will highlight ways UCC can further advance civic and community engagement, as well as across the higher education sector nationally.

In addition Dr. Ward will discuss her recent co-edited book ‘Publicly Engaged Scholars: Next Generation Engagement and the Future of Higher Education’. The book calls for renewing higher education’s commitment to addressing community concerns and expanding notions of what counts as ‘scholarship’ to include publicly engaged scholarship. In doing so it acknowledges the important contributions that community partners can and do make in knowledge production and identifies the need for substantial changes in the academy to support engagement practices that address issues of working between the two cultures (the academy and the community) and that incorporate multiple points of view.

**Biography:** Dr. Elaine Ward is a native of Dublin, Ireland, and Assistant Professor of Graduate Higher Education in Merrimack College’s School of Education and Social Policy in North Andover, Massachusetts. She is the lead on the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement Framework Ireland Project. She has 17 years of experience working in U.S. and Irish higher education systems and is passionate about helping advance Irish higher education’s commitment to civic and community engagement. Dr. Ward has served two terms on the Board of the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement and is coordinator for the Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement. Her recent publications include the co-edited book Publicly Engaged Scholars: Next Generation Engagement and the Future of Higher Education and the forthcoming special edition of the Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement, which she has edited.

To register Contact: [martin.galvin@ucc.ie](mailto:martin.galvin@ucc.ie)