



## SciFest

### *Inspiring and Promoting Excellence in STEM Education*

**“It is vital that interest in science is stimulated at an early age and fostered throughout the education system to enable Ireland to achieve the goals of developing a strong knowledge economy and becoming world leaders in Science and Technology.”**

Minister of State for Science,  
Technology and Innovation,  
Dr Jimmy Devins T.D.

Our fast changing world requires today's students to be life-long learners and studies have shown that effective learning requires students to take control of their own learning. With only one National Science Fair in Ireland many second-level students are denied the opportunity to participate in a science exhibition and celebrate their achievements in science and technology. SciFest provides a forum for students who wish to exhibit their work and to experience the excitement of sharing their findings with other like-minded students.

SciFest is the only science fair in Ireland that is open to all second level students. When a student works on a project they take ownership and get a taste of what it is like to be a professional research scientist. By participating in SciFest the students build a strong science and math research foundation, hone their communications skills and gain confidence to pursue higher education. For example, some students said: “I am now thinking of studying science at university. It was a good experience. I enjoy science much more now.”

In 2009, over 2000 students (1,000 projects) exhibited in 15 venues throughout Ireland. This led to an increase of 200% in the number of students participating in science fairs.

Ireland's education policy statement is to promote excellence in both learning and study of mathematics and science subjects as the primary subject areas leading to careers and opportunities in the technology world.

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At Intel, we believe that students everywhere deserve to have the skills necessary to become the next generation of innovators. We are actively involved in education programs, advocacy and technology access to enable tomorrow's innovators. SciFest is jointly funded by Intel Ireland and Department of Education and Science and supported by a number of other partners. This collaboration creates a valuable link between the education sector and industry. Students of all abilities and backgrounds are able to experience the magic of science and technology thus lowering the barriers and bringing the talents of diverse populations into the knowledge economy pipeline.

If you would like to find out more about SciFest visit: [www.sciefest.ie](http://www.sciefest.ie)