Enable Ireland and Dublin Institute of Technology in partnership with Leckey sponsor - Community Design Challenge

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Background

Enable Ireland provides free services to children and adults with disabilities and their families from 40 locations in 14 counties. Delivering services from childhood to adulthood, our expert teams work with the individual and their family on a plan for each life stage. Enable Ireland's National Assistive Technology Training Service (www.enableireland.ie/at) in partnership with Dublin Institute of Technology, run the Community Design Challenge annually. The Community Design Challenge (CDC) is a competition which is open to students nationally and internationally and is sponsored by Leckey, a company which specialises in designing and manufacturing specialist seating and postural management devices for children with disabilities (www.leckey.com).

Activity Report

The 2015 winners of the Community Design Challenge:

Judges' Choice Award: 'Bus Buddy' - A wireless sensor communicates the number of the approaching bus to the user's cane, and if it is the desired bus, the user sends a signal to the bus driver to stop.

Team Members: Christina McCarthy, Kaitlyn Mast and Evan Markley (Purdue University, USA)

Users' Choice Award: 'Happy Openings' - A guillotine device to enable a person with limited manual dexterity to open his/her own mail, thereby maintaining privacy and removing the need for assistance.

Team Members: Shelly Gaynor, Amy Sexton, Kelly McGuinness and Olivia Holbrook (Dublin Institute of Technology)

Conclusions

We aim to build on this year's competition and look forward to the potential development of some of the produce concepts to prototype stage, with the support of Dublin Institute of Technology and Purdue University in the US.

The challenge is to imagine how you could adapt, improve, integrate or augment products to make them fun for the user, and as a consequence help remove the stigma of disability. Students collaborate with people with varying disabilities and diverse life experiences. Ultimately we envisage that end users and designers of products and services will collaborate directly with one another, addressing the multifarious challenges which users identify in their daily lives. The internet offers huge potential in linking such collaborators, regardless of where they live.

References

Contact details

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