

Dr. Charles Wessner delivers seminar on Innovation & Entrepreneurship Strategy in the USA



An inspiring and thought-provoking talk on 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy in the USA' was recently delivered in The Helix, DCU, by Dr. Charles W. Wessner. Dr. Wessner is a National Academy Scholar and the Director of the Programme on Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, US National Academies in Washington DC. He is recognised internationally for his expertise on innovation policy, including public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship, early-stage financing for new firms, and the special needs and benefits of high-technology industry.

His work addresses the linkages between science-based economic growth, entrepreneurship, new technology development, university-industry clusters, regional development, small firm finance and public-private partnerships. His programme at the US National Academies also addresses policy issues associated with international technology cooperation, investment, and trade in high-technology industries.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to hear Dr. Wessner speak in DCU. In his address Dr Wessner explored how to compete globally in the 21st Century and how government, universities and business can best collaborate to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. His talk covered many topical issues ranging from research's grand challenges, a global overview of R&D investment, the success of US enterprise programmes such as SBIR and what Ireland needs to focus on to develop its knowledge economy.

DCU would like to thank Prof. Suzi Jarvis, Innovation Academy Director, for her role in bringing Dr. Wessner to DCU during his week long visit to Ireland.

Currently, Dr. Wessner directs a series of studies centred on government measures to encourage entrepreneurship and to support the development of new technologies and the cooperation between industry, universities, laboratories, and government to capitalize on a nation's investment in research. The overarching goal of Dr Wessner's work is to develop a better understanding of how we can bring new technologies forward to address global challenges in health, climate, energy, water, infrastructure, and security.