



# Service Learning in Ireland:

Monastic Midlands – People, Pilgrimage, and Tradition  
sponsored by the University College and Division of University Engagement

**Program Dates:** May 14 – 29, 2018

**Location:** Our community partner is the Irish Heritage School, an award winning organization that helps Irish communities preserve their unique cultural heritage. The location is Birr in County Offaly. Students will stay with local host families in Birr.

**Service Activities:** We will be working side by side with community members from Birr 20/20 and Birr Tidy Towns, two local voluntary organizations. Service activities will focus on helping the community develop new public spaces such as a biodiversity garden and/or craft center. The work that we complete will be featured in a community-wide event that we organize for the local residents.

**About Birr:** Birr is a quintessentially classic, small, friendly, and safe Irish town located in the center of the country. The community dates to the 6<sup>th</sup> century when Saint Brendan of Birr founded a monastery. Birr Castle is 400 years old and has been home to the same family for 14 generations. Birr is a designated Irish Heritage Town due to the abundance of Georgian architecture in the town. The town is home to many shops, pubs, and restaurants.

**Excursions:** Group excursions include visits to Clonmacnoise and other Midlands Monastic sites, Lough Boora Parklands, and Slieve Bloom Mountains, as well as a trip to Dublin that includes a visit to the Book of Kells at Trinity College Dublin. We also will attend a performance at the Birr Theatre and Arts Centre.

**Cost:** \$2295 (includes food, lodging, and excursions) plus airfare. Travel support is available to assist with airfare.

**Trip Leaders:** Dr. Linda Maule, Dean of the University College and Dr. Nancy Rogers, Vice President of University Engagement

**For more information:** [donna.isbell@indstate.edu](mailto:donna.isbell@indstate.edu) or contact 812-237-3767. We will contact you with dates for an information meeting.

