

XLVets Skillnet wins top award for Best Learning & Development Organisation – Networks & Groups

XLVets Skillnet, an initiative from members of the XLVets group in Ireland, has won the top award for Best Learning & Development Organisation – Networks & Groups at the IITD (Irish Institute of Training & Development) National Training Awards 2016.

The awards were presented by Nicola O'Neill, IITD President and MC, Marty Whelan at the Killashee House Hotel in Naas on Friday 26th February.

Commenting after the ceremony, John Berkery, Chairman of XLVets Ireland and XLVets Skillnet observed; “this award demonstrates the ability of veterinary practitioners to create additional value for the farming community through using training, development and coaching services as routes for delivering preventative healthcare to livestock herds”.

Now in its eighteenth year,

the IITD National Training Awards is recognised as the premier Learning & Development event for industry. The purpose of the IITD National Training Awards is to promote excellence, best practice and innovation in training, learning and development and to highlight the importance of this area in today's business climate.

Donal Lynch, veterinary surgeon from Tullamore who represented XLVets Skillnet at the event commented; “farmers operate in an increasingly complex and challenging environment. Simply throwing more information at them is not helpful. As vets we need to get key messages across in a way that can make a difference on the farm. Training ourselves to be trainers is a key part of that.”

The training initiative was undertaken by XLVets members in Ireland; they are a network of 24 veterinary practices, that work alongside the XLVets practices in



the UK. Since inception, XLVets have had great engagement from the farming community, the veterinary supply chain and academia. XLVets saw the problems faced by farmers and devised a strategy for addressing them through the

delivery of relevant and practical training programmes in both Ireland (XLVets Skillnet) and the UK (FarmSkills) that link back to an overall objective of improving health in livestock.