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Smurfit School

Smurfit School Board Member Awarded Emmy

23 May 2005

Irish-American telecom and media investor, David C. McCourt, was last night awarded an Emmy at the 33rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards Ceremony for his role as Producer of the critically acclaimed Reading Rainbow children's series.



David McCourt, Smurfit School Board Member and Veteran Irish American Telecom and Media Investor.

The critically acclaimed show was awarded an Emmy for Outstanding Children's series. Along with his well known telecom investments, McCourt has been an active investor in television and media for many years and takes a keen interest in their future, both in the US and in Ireland.

McCourt recently joined the North American Board of Smurfit School of Business, UCD. The Smurfit School North American Board is chaired by Jim Quinn, President, Tiffany & Co, who heads a thirty member board of influential Irish-American business and political figures.

McCourt is an Irish citizen who visits his home in Newmarket-on-Fergus, Clare frequently. In November 2004 the American-Irish Historical Society awarded Mr. McCourt its annual Gold Medal, an award previously bestowed on President Reagan, author Mary



Higgins Clark, and entertainer and human rights advocate Bono.

Commenting on the award, David McCourt said, "The TV Business is going to change more in the next 10 years, than the telecom business has changed in the last 10 years, and we intend to play a role in that change."

McCourt is the Chairman and CEO of Granahan McCourt Capital. He has started 10 different media and telecom businesses during the past 25 years. For ten years he has been involved with Reading Rainbow, which has received a total of 20 Emmy Awards.

McCourt started investing in media companies back in 1983 in the Caribbean where he built and owned the first independent television station on the Island of Grenada and began producing a variety of family programming for the Caribbean market. This TV station was sold, two years after the liberation of Grenada by US forces during Ronald Regan's presidency. However, McCourt kept his programming interest from those early days. "My TV business in Grenada was very simple, but profitable, it was TV the way Edward R. Murrow would have wanted it to be," said McCourt.

For over 25 years, David C. McCourt has been an investor, entrepreneur, and business leader across the telecommunications and media industries. Mr. McCourt's investment activities have been characterized by a number of "firsts". In Boston, he built the first competitive phone company in the U.S. In Grenada the first independent television station on the island. Following the Telecommunications Act of 1996, he built the first telecom company to offer multiple services to the residential market.

"I have always been committed to bringing the best products to consumers whether it was integrated telecom services or the highest quality programming," said McCourt. "I continue to believe that these businesses not only serve customers, they are very rewarding investments."

Mr. McCourt, 48, has founded 10 companies in 3 countries and is widely recognized as a transformational force in the telecommunications and media industries. The Economist described him as having "incredible credentials as a telecom revolutionary."

Reading Rainbow ranks amongst the longest running and best-loved children's TV shows in the history of public television in the US. Designed to inspire children's imaginations, the show is a fast-paced daily half-hour magazine style series encouraging a love of reading in children and building lasting connections between children and books. The 32nd Daytime annual Emmy Awards were presented from New York Radio City Music Hall on May 20th at 9pm.