



GOLDEN BRIDGES

2021 CONFERENCE

Linking Northwest Ireland
and Boston, Massachusetts

*gateway
to growth*

IRELAND NORTHWEST
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE

Broadcast from: Gteic Gaoth Dobhair

HEADLINE PARTNERS:



SPONSORS:

CHARITY SPONSOR:



Diaspora



Community



Business



Government

The 13th annual Golden Bridges Conference and Awards will take place on 19 November 2021 from our broadcast studio at Gteic Gaoth Dobhair, Co Donegal. Our purpose is to build mutually beneficial links of community, culture, commerce and education across the Atlantic.

Irish Time

- 1pm Official Opening**
Mayor of Donegal County Council, Cllr Jack Murray
Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Alderman Graham Warke
Rachael Rollins, Suffolk County District Attorney, Boston
- 1:15pm Northwest Ireland: Looking Forward with Optimism and Confidence**
Minister Charlie McConalogue TD, Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine
- 1:20pm Northwest Ireland open for Investment: A Region on the Rise**
Chair: Mark O'Connell, CEO OCO Global
Panel: Peta Conn, Executive VP, Head of Americas Invest NI
Jennifer Neff, MD & Co-Founder, Elemental, Derry
Robbie O'Brien, Founder and Director, Metacompliance, Derry
Michelle Conaghan, Regional Manager, IDA Ireland North West Region
Mark Boyle, Head of Operations, Irish Pressings
- 1:50pm A Welcome Awaits: Enhancing Northwest Ireland's Compelling Visitor Proposition**
Chair: Joan Crawford, Client Service Manager, Fáilte Ireland, Co Donegal
Panel: Sara Stanton, Founder Cara Group Travel, Boston
Alison Metcalfe, Executive VP USA & Canada, Tourism Ireland
Lisa Marshall, Marketing Director, Lough Eske Castle Hotel, Co Donegal
Odhrán Dunne, CEO, VisitDerry
- 2:20pm New Medical School Up and Running**
Louise Dubras, Foundation Dean, School of Medicine, Ulster University
- 2:30pm Northwest Ireland: Exploring a Continent of Culture, Heritage and History**
Chair: Sonia Nic Giolla Easbaig, Stiúrthóir-Bunaitheoir, Director-Founder Ligid TV, Co Donegal
Panel: Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Ceoltóir/Musician, Co Donegal
Brian McCormick, Manager, Séamus Heaney Homeplace, Co Derry
Prof Christine Kinealy, Institute of Ireland's Great Hunger, Quinnipiac University
- 3pm Fireside Chat: Working Globally and Living Locally**
Joanne Kilmartin, Donegal Diaspora Executive, Donegal County Council, in conversation with Niamh Walsh, Director TDL Horizons, Co Donegal, and Míchéal Ó hÉannaigh, Príomhfheidhmeannach, Údarás na Gaeltachta



Education



COVID-19



Tourism



Brexit

- 3:15pm Northwest Ireland – A global exemplar for Cross-Border Co-operation**
Chair: Malachy Ó Néill, Director of Regional Engagement, Ulster University
Panel: John Kelpie, CE, Derry and Strabane District Council
Susan Whoriskey, Biotechnology Entrepreneur, Whoriskey Associates, Boston
John McLaughlin, CE, Donegal Country Council
Anna Ní Ghallachair, Cathaoirleach, Údarás na Gaeltachta
- 3:45pm Revived City Region for a new Era**
Chair: Jeananne Craig, Journalist
Panel: Pádraig MacLochlainn TD
Sinéad McLaughlin MLA
- 4:15pm Valuing our Trans-Atlantic Partnerships**
Chair: Niamh Hamill, Director, Institute of Study Abroad Ireland
Panel: Mary Sugrue, CEO Irish American Partnership, Boston
James Colimon, Manager of International Partnerships, City of Boston
Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Donegal County Council
Stephen Gillespie, Director of Business and Culture, Derry City and Strabane District Council
- 4:50pm Ireland North West: a hot-bed of Innovation**
Chair: Seán Moynihan, Moynihan Associates, Boston
Panel: Paul Hannigan, President LYIT, Co Donegal
Peter Devine, Director of Strategic Partnerships, City Deal Lead, Ulster University
Aisling Brady, Project Director, MEGA Degree Apprenticeship, Ulster University
Elaine Smyth, Director of Innovation Community, Catalyst
- 5:15pm A Parting Glass**
Eamonn McConville, Deputy Director, Northern Ireland Bureau
Laoise Moore, Consul General of Ireland in Boston