

#GoldenBridges

15th Annual



GOLDEN BRIDGES

Na Droichid Órga

CONFERENCE LUNCHEON 2023

Friday 17 November 11:30am-2:30pm



Venue: Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, Boston, MA

FOYLE PARTNERS:

ERRIGAL PARTNERS:

INISHOWEN PARTNERS:



Golden Bridges Convenes in 'Hometown' Boston

By Ray O'Hanlon

Golden Bridges returns to Boston this week for its annual exercise of linking Ireland's Northwest with America's Northeast, specifically Boston and Massachusetts.

After a three year hiatus due to Covid-19 there was a much welcomed in-person Golden Bridges conference in November of last year.

Covid, thankfully, has not returned in force, but Golden Bridges will be convening once again on Friday, November 17 for an in-person exploration of transatlantic possibility and ambition. And it will be doing so for the fifteenth time.

The conference luncheon in Boston's Seaport Hotel will bring together business leaders and civic champions from Northwest Ireland to forge partnerships with corporations, universities, and Irish American organizations in Boston and right across Massachusetts.

First held in 2008 at the JFK Library, the Golden Bridges gathering, which

takes place in a conference-luncheon format, is backed by both Invest Northern Ireland and Tourism Ireland, as well as the Northern Ireland Bureau.

And this year's keynote speaker, Joe Kennedy III, knows all about the importance of transatlantic connection and cooperation.

During a recent visit to the North, which took in not just Belfast, but also Derry and Newry, President Biden's point man on the peace process was given a rapturous welcome by community and business leaders.

At Golden Bridges the Special Envoy will get to report back on that groundbreaking visit and meet leaders from Northwest Ireland who have been using the annual conference as a springboard for transatlantic partnerships since its inception.

Among guests flying in from Ireland for Golden Bridges 2023 will be the Mayor of Donegal Martin Hanley, Atlantic Technological University Chair Maura McNally, and Rónán Mac Con Iomaire, Director of Regional Development with the Irish language

economic agency Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Featuring panels, presentations and the keynote by Mr. Kennedy, this year's conference is supported by a strong cohort of Honorary Chairs including Martina Curtin, President of the Irish Cultural Center of Greater Boston, lawyer and government affairs specialist Eugene O'Flaherty, New England Revolution communications chief Cathal Conlan, UMass Amherst lecturer Ka-

thyn Ellis, Jones Day partner Maureen Bennett, and Irish American Partnership CEO Mary Sugrue.

Connla McCann, conference co-founder, says the Boston gathering plays a key role in forging partnerships between Northwest Ireland and New England.

"Friendships and alliances built through this conference have proved enduring and mutually beneficial," she said.

"We're particularly pleased to have the support of the Consulate General of Ireland Boston in hosting an awards presentation the evening before the luncheon and are thrilled to have the number one university globally for entrepreneurship, Babson College, strongly represented."

The ocean-spanning connections that have been forged these past fifteen years have proven to be as resilient as girders holding up a literal bridge.

They will be strengthened anew in Boston this week, and throughout the coming year.



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9

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24,000

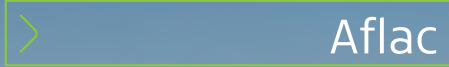
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GOLDEN BRIDGES HONORARY CHAIRS



Alison Metcalfe
Head of North America
& Australia, Tourism Ireland



Andrea Haughian
Head Invest NI USA



Andrew Elliott
Director,
Northern Ireland Bureau



Andrew O'Brien
Partner, Seven Letter



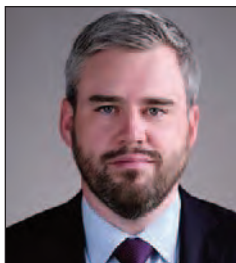
Brian Golden
Attorney at
Keegan Werlin LLP



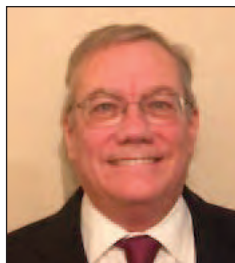
Cathal Conlon
Vice President of Marketing
& Community Engagement,
New England Revolution



Eugene O'flaherty
Partner/Ballard Partners,
Wash DC



Gary Kerr
Managing Director of
Development, Greystar



John Donovan
Chair of the Boston Belfast
Sister City Initiative



Rep John Lawn
Massachusetts State
Representative



John Philip Foley, Esq.
Attorney at Law



Kathryn Ellis
Director, UMass Innovation
Institute, University of
Massachusetts Amherst



Kevin J. Sullivan
Vice President of Strategic
Corporate Engagement
Babson College



Kyle Darcy
Author



Larry O'Toole
President, Gentle Giant



Laura Hamilton
President, BIBA



Martina Curtin
Chairperson Irish Cultural
Centre



President Marty Meehan
University of Massachusetts



Mary Sugrue
Chief Executive,
Irish American Partnership



Maureen Bennett
Partner, Jones Day



Michael Patrick MacDonald
Author of the New York Times
Bestselling memoir, All Souls



Nuala McGowan
Senior Director of Research
Finance & Compliance,
Harvard University



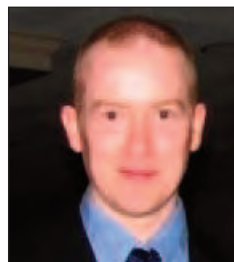
Pat Bench
Founder of Benchmark
Strategies



Robert McCarron
President & CEO, Association
of Independent Colleges and
Universities in Massachusetts



Ryan McDermott
Co-Founder & Partner of
Prism Benefits



Sean Getchell
Staff Director, Joint
Committee on Election Laws,
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Sean P. Moynihan
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Finding the special connection

By Peter McDermott

pmcdermott@irishecho.com

The ash cloud. Remember that? Sara Stanton does, but then she's involved professionally with the travel industry.

The ash cloud is referred to more formally as the 2010 volcanic eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland.

And she also mentioned a foot-and-mouth outbreak, 9/11, bankruptcy and the Covid-19 pandemic from the list of events that impacted business.

"What's next?" Stanton said. "Locusts?" Every time, though, after each upheaval, tragedy and period of uncertainty, the travel industry has had to respond, and sometimes has come back stronger.

And definitely changed.

That goes for staff members, too. For instance, Stanton never saw herself as a business owner. Some long-time clients, however, encouraged her, indeed pushed her in that direction. And Cara Group Travel was born.

The Quincy, Mass.-based business specializes in designing group-travel experiences to Ireland and Europe for a range of clientele, including those whose trips have an academic, heritage, musical, literary, professional, religious or sporting focus. And inevitably, there are the regular touring groups also, mostly interested in sight-seeing.

Some travel agents may have felt that locusts had invaded, metaphorically speaking, with the advent of on-line booking. But while it's relatively easy now for the individual or family to organize a trip without an agent, that's not the case when it comes to larger groups.

Additionally, it's hard to find the exact fit on the web.

"Even today, people get so overwhelmed with what's online. They don't always know what's real and what's not real," said Stanton, whose company employs six people in the U.S. and one in Ireland. "Can you trust this? Can you not trust this?"

"And having real people," she added. "It's like any industry. It's really nice to talk with somebody. It's even nicer to get to sit down to talk with somebody."

One role for a company like Cara Group Travel is "to tie everything together, to make it flow smoothly for them."

Stanton has a long history of being

involved with making things run smoothly. She began at age 14 working in hotels and at banquets at home in County Mayo. "Loads of weddings. God knows I must have worked 100 weddings," she said.

She studied business and hotel management at college and was planning to return to a hotel she'd worked for in Germany when she got a Morrison visa. "Well, you have to go," she said of that opportunity.

And so, Stanton took the transatlantic trip with her then boyfriend, having told her parents before departure that she had a hotel job lined up. She had not. In fact, it proved surprisingly difficult to get one, despite her visa.

She started out in San Diego. "That was a complete culture shock, coming from the West of Ireland," she said.

But then an interview she'd done at home with the Doyle Hotel Group led to a job with its group sales office in Washington D.C., where it owned the Marriott Courtyard and the Dupont Hotel.

Next up, consciously stepping beyond the Irish world, Stanton took a position with Hyatt and moved to another with that company in Chicago. "That was a great experience," she remembered. "I worked very hard there."

Then a friend told her that Brian Moore Tours in Boston was looking for a group travel manager.

"That would be different, wouldn't it?" she thought to herself at the time. "Maybe I'd get to go home a bit more. It sounds interesting." It was more than interesting. She loved it.

"I loved the business, loved the tours, the creating, all of that," Stanton said. When Brian Moore Tours was bought out by a company based in Seattle, she was very keen to continue with her specialty in the Boston area.

"It was never on the cards that I would own a business. I never wanted that. Had no interest," she recalled. "But life throws different things in your path."

Her answer was "no" when it was first suggested. "But eventually I did," she added.

Stanton had sensed it was the right course when a long-time customer insisted that she organize his trip and sent her a blank check.

Repeat business continues to be key.

She cited a group going from California next June, whose leader has

been a client for 10 or 12 years with a different type of group. And now in his role as a grandfather, "he's bringing his



County Mayo's Sara Stanton is the founder of Cara Group Travel based in Quincy, Mass.

whole family, his extended family."

One important sub-specialty is the heritage tour.

"Those trips are very important for the client," she said. "So we make sure we listen to them to get it right for them."

She added, "I always like to think we've got something they didn't know they really wanted."

The client might tell her they have roots in a certain area.

"I love to find out more. 'Is there a church? Is there a graveyard? A store that used to belong to your family?' Some kind of connection," she said. "You get on the phone and call somebody in that village or that town. So we try to help them find those connections."

"And that takes their whole experience to a different level."

"We've found relatives, we've found homesteads," Stanton said. "We do a little bit of the legwork for them. These really are huge experiences for people."

Over the years, Stanton has come to see how Ireland affects first-time visitors "The biggest thing, to me the most impactful thing, is that they actually feel a sense of belonging," she said.

"It's more than a welcome."

"People say 'I don't have any heritage.' And I always say, 'But you don't need to, because when you go there if you connect with people, we're really good – Irish people are really good at connecting. And we like to know about people and we like to find out where you're from,'" she said.

"And there's such a big connection between Ireland and the U.S. anyway. They're always amazed by this. They [the visitors] can't believe people really want to know them, want to connect with them on a personal level," Stanton added.

"They go to tick the box the first time, but there's something that brings them back the second, third and fourth time." And for many Irish-Americans specifically, who may be second-, third- or fourth-generation, she said, "Home is always home."

All of her immediate family are first-generation, being born outside of Ireland to an Irish parent or parents. Her husband, Thomas Scott, is a native of Huddersfield, England, who was raised by a mum from Connemara and a dad from Donegal. They have two sons, Hugh, 19, and Luke, 17.

Her older son, a 6-foot-7 goalkeeper who will spend the next four or five months at a football academy near London, connects very strongly with his heritage, she said.

They saw that when they brought their younger son to a Féile in Mayo and Sligo, it was Hugh who connected with local people his own age, and with popular culture. Luke, his mother said, "is more the American."

Sports generally, as it happens, has "become a very important attraction to Ireland," Stanton said.

"For example soccer teams travel over to take part in the Foyle Cup in Derry," she said, "basketball teams for events in Dublin and Belfast and our Friendship Four College Ice Hockey teams who go to Belfast with friends, family and alumni every November."

Cara Group Travel's goal, said its owner, "is to always find that special connection for our group," whether they are participating in sports, sight-seeing, meeting with Irish legislators, studying at an Irish college or playing music.

"We know our clients. They're not a number. They're real people. It is a partnership with us at this stage," Sara Stanton said. "Because they trust us to provide something, to create something that's unique."



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Gregory Hanley

Gregory Hanley

Administrator, Town of Holbrook & Chairman, Quincy College Board of Governors

With more than 30 years of combined experience in local, county and state government, Gregory M. Hanley brings a diversified background in business and charitable public service to his role as a third term Plymouth County Commissioner.

A former Quincy City Councilor, Commissioner Hanley recently was employed as Administrator for the Town of Holbrook and is currently serving as Chairman of the Quincy College Board of Governors. He formerly served as Chairman of the Board of Selectman in the Town of Pembroke, Mr Hanley has held a number of elected and appointed positions for the Commonwealth of MA, including the South Shore Work Investment Board and the Massachusetts Board of Examiners for Plumbers and Gasfitters. He is a member of the Plymouth Ancient Order of Hibernians Div #9 and a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus.

A graduate of Norwich University, Gregory Hanley is the father of John Francis, KerriAnn, Erin Elizabeth, and Margaret Rose Hanley and resides in Plymouth, MA.

Hilary Beirne

Chairman, NYC St Patrick's Day Foundation

Hilary Beirne (formally of Boyle, Co Roscommon) is well known in Ireland and Irish American circles for his extensive work with the New York City St Patrick's Day parade, for his involvement in Irish American affairs, and the Irish Diaspora.

He is the founder and Chairman of New York City's St. Patrick's Day Foundation and for the past 25 years, he has been the principal orchestrator of the world's oldest and largest St Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. He is an active member of the "Irish Ad Hoc" Committee in Washington, DC to Defend the Good Friday Agreement and frequently joins US political and community figures at meetings with parties from Northern Ireland and the UK.

Mr. Beirne is a member of the Executive Board at VotingRights.IE and has written extensively on the subject of Irish Diaspora engagement and voting rights for Irish nationals abroad. In April 2023, he participated at the Global Irish Civic Forum in Dublin Castle where he received worldwide recognition for his advocacy for the increased engagement of Irish Citizens abroad with the establishment of



Hilary Beirne

representation for the Diaspora in Dublin.

Hilary Beirne is an honorary member of the famous "Fighting Irish" 69th NY Regiment and serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the 69th Regiment Historical Trust. He is a member of both the Co Roscommon and Leitrim Societies of NY. Before emigrating to the US in 1988, Hilary Beirne worked for Volac Animal Feeds as Area Manager for Connaught and introduced the "wrapping" of bale silage, then a new innovation in farming in Ireland.

Over the years, Hilary Beirne has received multiple awards / honors for his involvement in the Irish community, in 2022 he received the "New York City Hero Award" for his work in managing the Parade through Covid thereby ensuring the continuation of the 263 year old Parade and in 2021, he was honored by the Irish Echo Newspaper (America's Oldest Irish Newspaper Est 1928) with the 2021 Art & Cultural Medal, and by the Board of Legislators of Westchester County, NY at their Irish History and Heritage Celebration.

Hilary Beirne was educated at Hollymount National School Ardcarne, Boyle, Co Roscommon and St Mary's College, Boyle. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Sciences from the National University of Ireland (NUI) having attended both University College Galway (NUI Galway) and University College Dublin. Mr.Beirne received a certificate in Agriculture which attended Mountbellew Agricultural College Co Galway in 1981 – 1982, and which today is the Atlantic Technology University (ATU), Mountbellew campus. He holds a Master's Degree in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences from the City University of New York where he graduated summa Cum Laude. For the past 30 years, Mr. Beirne has been a science educator in New York. He is married to Marguerite Bernie, Commissioner of Technology and C.I.O of Westchester County, New York. They have one son, Connor and Currently reside in Larchmont, NY.

Katherine Craven

Chief Administrative & Financial Officer, Babson College

Currently the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer of Babson College, Katherine has dedicated her career to a diverse range of public service and mission-driven organizations, with particular attention to creating community partnerships and pragmatic solutions. In 2004, Katherine became the founding Executive Director of the newly-created Massachusetts School Building Authority, and led a team to create a completely



Katherine Craven

revised, equitable and efficient program to distribute billions of Massachusetts state sales tax revenues to fund K-12 school construction across Massachusetts.

Katherine also oversaw \$3B in educational facility construction as the former Executive Director of the UMass Building Authority, and managed multiple state agencies including the state employee pension fund and the Lottery as Massachusetts' First Deputy State Treasurer. Katherine began her career as a budget analyst for the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and assisted in the writing of ten State budgets with particular focus on tax policy, hospital and education funding.

At Babson, she has led the efforts to complete the most ambitious campus construction program since the College's founding while achieving the highest-ever bond rating in the College's history. Katherine was recently named as the 2020 Chief Financial Officer of the Year in the education sector by the Boston Business Journal. Committed to community and public service, Katherine currently is the Chairwoman of Massachusetts' Board of Education, and is also the Chairwoman of the Boston Public Facilities Commission and the Chair of the Quincy City Building Committee, in addition to serving as the Treasurer of the Adams Presidential Center, and the Massachusetts Business Roundtable.

Katherine also serves on the Boards of Directors of Massachusetts' University of Massachusetts Foundation, the Dorchester Boys' and Girls' Club, Quincy College, the Roxbury Latin School, the Higginson Scholarship Society of the Harvard Club of Boston, the Honorary Board for the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, the board of MAB Community Services and various other community based organizations. Katherine was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the New England School of Law in 2022.

Katherine has served on many ad-hoc policy committees and has served on various government Transition Teams at every level of state and local government, appointed by both Democrats and Republicans, serving as a co-chair for Boston Mayor Marty Walsh's transition team in 2013, as a member of the transition teams for Governor Deval Patrick in 2006, State Treasurer Steven Grossman in 2010, and for both State Treasurer Deb Goldberg and Governor Charlie Baker in 2014. She has lectured on topics such as executive leadership and the state budget process at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Northeastern University,



Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

and the Donahue Institute at the University of Massachusetts.

A graduate of Harvard College and Boston Latin School, Ms. Craven resides in Brookline with her husband, Dr. Jim Kryzanski, and five children: Delia, Joseph, who has Down Syndrome, James, John Francis Xavier, and Fianna Kryzanski.

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

Co-Owner of T.A. Sullivan Real Estate Agency, Lawrence, MA

Born in Lawrence, Mass. 12/18/1956 To Thomas and Anna Sullivan. Attended Saint Patrick's Grammar school 1970, Central Catholic High School 1974, and Western New England College 1978.

Co-Owner of T.A. Sullivan agency which was started in 1963 and continues to serve Mass and NH with Insurance and Real Estate needs.

- 2000-2001 Elected to and served on term to Lawrence City council
 - 2002-2010 Elected and served 2 terms as Mayor of the city of Lawrence.
 - 57th Mayor of the city
- Married to Kristyn Sullivan with 4 children: Casey, Mike Jr., Jeana, Anna.

Rosina Gillespie Gallagher

Donegal Association, NY

Born in Glasgow, Rosina Gillespie Gallagher is the eldest of seven to Mary (nee McFadden) of Dunlewey (recently deceased) and the late Peter Gillespie from Carrick-Boyle. Rosina's family spent every summer in Donegal before moving back to the Gweedore Gaeltacht in the mid 60's where she attended Scoil Naisiunta Bunbeag, Ard Scoil Mhuire and Pobal Scoil Gaoth Dhobhair.

In 1985, Rosina and her husband Denis, a native of Gortahork, immigrated to New York and later were married at the Sacred Heart Church, Dunlewey in 1987. They settled in New York where they raised their children Aisling and Daryl.

Having spent 22 years with Aer Lingus in New York, Rosina held several positions in various departments and recently retired from her role as Group Sales Executive. She previously worked for Smalbhia Eire Teo (Irish Snack Foods Ltd/Sam Spudz) in Donegal, as well as the Council of International Education Exchange (CIEE) in Manhattan.

Rosina has given of her time and talents to several noteworthy causes. She has been a member of the Donegal Association of New York for many years, and proudly served two

GOLDEN BRIDGES HONOREES

terms as President and currently as a Director. Rosina was chosen as the 2016 "Donegal Person of the Year" by the Donegal Association of New York.

During her time as President, Rosina was a delegate to the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of New York. She is also a delegate to the United Irish Counties and has served on the New York "Mary from Dungloe" committee. Rosina has been active in numerous other organizations promoting Irish Heritage and history. She was chosen as one of many global Donegal Ambassadors during "The Gathering" of 2012. In 2013, she was part of the committee for the groundbreaking 'Irish Famine Tribunal' which took place at the Fordham Law school.

Back in the day, Rosina also wore the title of "Cailin Gaelach" Tir Chonall. She is also a former CYO track and field coach for the Sacred Heart School in Bayside NY.

Rosina currently serves on the committee "Drive to Revive" working with the County Associations post-covid.

Presently, Rosina and Denis live in Westchester County, with Aisling and Daryl working and living close by. The family loves to visit Donegal often to see family and friends while spending time at their home at the foot of Mount Errigal.

Rep. Joe McGonagle

*Massachusetts State Legislator Chair
House Cttee on Operations, Facilities and
Building Security*

Joe McGonagle's personal career in public service goes back to 2002, but his roots in Everett and his desire to give back to the



Rosina Gillespie Gallagher

community he has always called home go back generations. Joe was raised in a family that gave much to community and is proud to be a third generation City official. His father was a Lt. Col. In the U.S. Army and served on the Everett City Council and his grandfather was a member of the Everett School Committee. So, it is only natural that Joe would be positively influenced by his own family's sense of obligation and commitment to public service.

Now in the middle of his fifth-term as State Representative for the 28th Middlesex District, he is Chairman of the House Committee on Operations, Facilities and Building Security while also serving on the Joint Committee on Education and the Joint Committee on Public Safety. He was previously the vice-chair of the Joint Committee on Housing and was a member of the COVID-19 Re-Opening Working Group. He is proud to have brought millions of dollars back to Everett for projects like



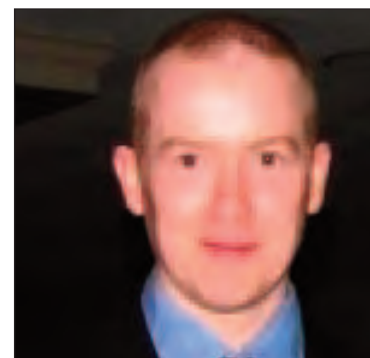
Rep. Joe McGonagle

building up the waterfront on the Mystic River, addressing food insecurity in the community and providing crucial upgrades to the Everett Fire and Police Departments.

Rep. McGonagle is also an active member of the Irish-American Caucus, joining them on a trip to Dublin and Belfast this past August. He is the co-chair of the Everett Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a philanthropic organization that raises money for local charities in the name of St. Patrick and Irish culture. Rep. McGonagle's great-grandparents came from Malin, Co. Donegal, to Everett where they put down roots. On his visits back to Malin/Malin Head, he is astounded by the natural beauty and culture of the area. Rep. McGonagle says he is extremely proud of his Irish heritage and honored to be so welcomed by the Irish community.

Sean Getchell

Staff Director, Joint Committee on



Sean Getchell

*Election Laws, Massachusetts
House of Representatives*

Sean, a resident of Boston, currently serves as the Staff Director to the Joint Committee on Election Laws in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Chaired by State Representative Daniel J. Ryan, the committee is responsible for the legislative portfolio relative to elections and campaign finance, within the Commonwealth.

Prior to his current position as Staff Director, Getchell served as Director of Government and Legislative Affairs for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Legislative Aide to former State Representative Eugene O'Flaherty, Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Sean is a graduate of Boston College and lives in the Charlestown neighborhood of Boston.





Alison Metcalfe



Andrea Haughian



Andrew Elliott



Christina McAlinden



Cllr Patricia Logue

Alison Metcalfe

Head of North America & Australia, Tourism Ireland & Chair, European Travel Commission, USA Chapter

Alison has responsibility for leading Tourism Ireland's Marketing Strategy and Operations in the US, Canada & Australia. In June 2017, Alison also assumed responsibility for Tourism Ireland's operations in Australia/New Zealand. She also serves as Chair of the European Travel Commission (ETC), USA Chapter since 2017. ETC is the non-profit organisation responsible for the promotion of Destination Europe as the worldwide number one tourist destination in third markets.

Andrea Haughian

Head Invest NI USA

Andrea Haughian is Head of Invest Northern Ireland in the Americas. Andrea has extensive experience in the Financial Services sector and specializes in assisting US companies establish successful near shore operations in Northern Ireland.

Prior to joining Invest Northern Ireland's New York office, Andrea worked in the Financial Services sector in Belfast with BDO Northern Ireland, the award winning member firm of BDO, the fifth largest accountancy network in the world. Prior to that, Andrea worked for many years in international trade, marketing and business development in Europe, the US and Asia.

Andrea is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, has undertaken post-graduate programs in both San Francisco and Chicago and is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Fellow of Young Enterprise and Member of the Institute of Directors. Andrea was listed as a Top 40 Under 40 honouree by the Irish Echo in 2010 and in 2009, 2010 and 2011 Andrea was named as one of Irish America's Most Influential Women.

Andrew Elliott

Director, Northern Ireland Bureau

Andrew was appointed to his US Diplomatic Post in November 2019. He joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service in 1988 and the Senior Civil Service in 2000. His previous diplomatic post was as Head of the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels from 2015 until November 2019, where a major priority related to the particular challenge of Brexit for the region of Northern Ireland.

From 2010 he was responsible for a programme of major reform to the delivery of EU Common Agricultural Policy grants and subsidies to farmers in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland. As a result of this work, the exposure of the Department to financial correction by the European Commission was significantly reduced.

From 2005 until 2010, he was responsible for directing the development of population health policy in Northern Ireland, including the introduction of legislation to ban smoking in enclosed public spaces and the preparations for pandemic influenza.

From 2000 to 2004 he was Secretary to the Parades Commission with responsibility for providing senior advice to the Commission on the discharge of its duties and powers in relation to issues concerning human rights and the promotion of mediation and peacebuilding.

Christina McAlinden

Founder and Innovator, Laniveen

Christina McAlinden, the founder and innovator at Laniveen, has crafted a distinguished 14-year career in nursing, dedicating 12 of those years to the specialized field of Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU). Her educational journey, marked by First Class Honors from the University of Ulster and a Postgraduate Diploma in Neonatal Nursing from Queen's University Belfast, showcases her profound expertise in neonatal care.

Advocating strongly for the integration of families into neonatal care, Christina's role as a Family Liaison Nurse Practitioner has been pivotal in highlighting the importance of parental involvement from the earliest stages. Her professional expertise extends across various critical areas, including discharge planning, practice development, and education, reflecting a diverse skill set committed to enhancing both patient care and healthcare practices.

With a career spanning across Ireland and New Zealand, Christina brings a global perspective to Laniveen, infusing a family-centered philosophy into the core of the company, which carries the meaning 'tiny baby'. Laniveen stands as a testament to her drive to combine clinical excellence with heartfelt care in neonatal services.

Christina's entrepreneurial journey is marked by key milestones such as insights from Alpha Innovation EU, support from the Local Enterprise Office, participation in the Enterprise Ireland New Frontiers

Programme, and collaborations facilitated by the Health Innovation Hub Ireland. These accomplishments highlight her dedication to innovation, including the development of a patent-pending NICU product.

Through Laniveen, Christina is set on delivering NICU solutions that not only aim to improve the health outcomes for preterm infants but also to offer cost-effective healthcare approaches and support the mental well-being of mothers. Under her direction, Laniveen aims to transform neonatal care by seamlessly blending innovation with the nurturing spirit of nursing

Cllr Patricia Logue

Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council

Patricia Logue has been an elected councillor in the city for the last 18 years. First elected to Derry City Council in 2005, Patricia has represented the Moor on the new Derry City & Strabane District Council since its inception in 2014. During that time Patricia has served on a number of key council committees and been central to efforts to drive forward regeneration across the city.

Patricia is committed to being a Mayor for All and working for every single citizen across the Derry and Strabane district. She will use her time as first citizen to promote a positive vision for the area that is focused on delivering first-class council services, economic regeneration and a better for all.

Patricia has chosen the Ryan McBride Foundation and Foyle Hospice as her charities and will fundraise and promote the work of these organisations during her term in the Guildhall.

Cllr Martin Harley

Electoral Area: Lifford-Stranorlar, Donegal County Council

First elected to office in 2000, Martin is married to Denise and they have five children. He was elected as Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council, for the year 2023-24.

Since being elected to public office, a project which has been ongoing for the past 40 years has been brought to completion; namely the highly anticipated Sunvalley Swimming Pool facility.

Martin is a hard-working man and is focused on continuing to access funding for improvements in road networks and also maintenance of essential services in the area. Furthermore he is constantly

available to locals to assist with social housing issues. An all rounder, Michael is a member of the Seán Mac Cumhaills GAC Club, and Ballybofey Soccer club.

Garry Martin

Director of Economic Development, Donegal County Council

Garry Martin is the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems and Emergency Services with Donegal County Council and is, additionally, the designated Director of the Donegal Municipal District.

In these roles he leads the Council's development and application of initiatives supporting economic and business development, manages and leads the Council's response in emergency events involving Fire Service and Civil Defence and has responsibility for the management and delivery of ICT solutions in support of the Council's service delivery requirements.

He has held the Director of Finance position in Donegal from July 2010 until 2018 and has worked both locally and nationally, (as president of the Heads of Finance Association) in leading and developing financial responses to strategic issues challenging both the Council locally and the sector nationally across a range of areas.

Garry is a qualified Chartered Public Finance Accountant, holds a Master of Science Degree in International Business from Ulster University and also holds an Advanced Certificate in Business Counselling from Durham University Business School.

John McLaughlin

Chief Executive of Donegal County Council

John G. McLaughlin grew up in Redcastle, Co. Donegal and was educated at Carndonagh Community School and the Regional Technical College in Letterkenny. He graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from University College Galway in 1986. He spent a short time working for University College Galway and Westmeath County Council before taking up an appointment in California, USA where he spent 13 years working in engineering and construction. He joined Donegal County Council in 1999 where he worked in the National Roads Office in Donegal Town at Executive Engineer and Senior Executive Engineer level. In 2001, he was appointed Director of Roads and Transportation and held that role until July 2020, when he took up the position of Chief Executive of Donegal County Council.



Supporting Business Nurturing Community Sustaining Language

Ag Cumasú na Gaeltachta, ag Neartú na Gaeilge

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www.udaras.ie



Cllr Martin Harley



Garry Martin



Joseph Kennedy III



Kevin Friend



Kevin Sexton

Joseph Kennedy III U.S. Special Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland

Joseph Kennedy III currently serves as the Special Envoy to Northern Ireland for Economic Affairs. Over four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Kennedy built an impressive legislative record around economic policy, health care, and civil rights.

Representing a district that spanned from the suburbs of Boston to the proud post-industrial communities along Massachusetts' South Coast, Mr. Kennedy sat on the House Energy & Commerce committee and spearheaded bipartisan efforts to extend mental health coverage, support the domestic manufacturing industry, protect consumer voices online, make hearing aids more affordable, and defend access to legal assistance for struggling families. Today, Mr. Kennedy also serves as Managing Director at Citizens Energy, a non-profit energy company founded to help low-income families meet their basic energy needs.

Through innovative programming, Citizens has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to benefit millions of families across the United States. He is the founder of Groundwork Project, an advocacy organization dedicated to supporting local community organizing efforts in under-resourced and historically disenfranchised communities. He also serves on the boards of the Woodwell Climate Research Center, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. He is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School and spent two years in the United States Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. He is married to Lauren Birchfield Kennedy and they have two young children, Eleanor and James, and a rescue dog, Banjo.

Kevin Friend Producer / Director/ Editor at BCN Productions

Kevin Friend has been the lead producer/director/editor of more than 200 episodes of travel broadcast television including: *Golfing the World*, a ski & ride series called *The Mountain Report* and a new international polo series called *The Polo Passport*.

Golfing the World began in the links land of Ireland in 1998 and has evolved into the longest running television broadcast series on Irish golf having produced

features from over 60 Irish golf properties. The program also showcases the cultural experiences surrounding these golf communities in story lines called "Out of Bounds".

Some of the courses covered from the North West include Ballyliffin, Portstewart, Portsalon, Narin & Portnoo, Donegal, Enniscrone, Rosses Point, Carne, Bundoran, Lough Erne, Rosapenna, and Portrush.

When not on the links, Kevin teaches Broadcast Journalism and Film Production at Stonehill College, and has been creating documentaries with a focus on sports and social issues including: *The Kings of Cape Cod*, the award-winning *Sacred Ground*, and *Borderland: The Life & Times of Blanche Ames Ames*.

Kevin Sexton Head of Innovation, ALPHA Innovation

Kevin leads out on ALPHA Innovation, where the team facilitates practical workshops which demystify innovation and propel ambitious entrepreneurs forward. ALPHA is developing an iconic building that will help build a thriving startup community and establish Donegal as a hotbed of innovation.

Laura Hamilton President, BIBA

Originally from Cork City, Ireland and now residing in Boston, Laura is the CEO of North America at HealthBeacon, a medication adherence technology company. HealthBeacon develops smart tools for managing medication. Previously, Laura was Executive Vice President, US Operations at RxCelerate, an outsourced drug development company. Prior to that, Laura was the Director of Business Development at MassBio (Massachusetts Biotechnology Council), onboarding almost 700 new companies in 4 years. Additionally, Laura is the President of the Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA). In 2018, Laura received the Irish Echo 40 Under 40 Award, as well as their Business Innovator Award.

In support of early-stage innovation, Laura is a Mentor and Judge at MassChallenge within their Bridge to MassChallenge program, advising foreign companies on aspects of market entry and market intelligence as well as Sales, Marketing and Business Development strategy. Laura has been a BIBA Board Member for several years and was awarded the Boston Irish Business Young Leader Award in 2015. Laura is a proud member of the American Heart Association Boston Metro Board of Directors and is affiliated with many worthwhile organizations such as

the Quincy Chamber of Commerce & the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate – 1787 Society. Laura is a three-time graduate of Northeastern University, holding a BSBA in Finance, a Master's Degree in Innovation and a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA).

Laura is passionate about business, disruptive technology, economic development, international trade and investment, and innovation. She takes great pride in facilitating introductions and making connections across her vast, global business network.

Martina Curtin Chairperson Irish Cultural Centre

Martina is the Founder of CHC Home Care, a boutique style home care agency that allowed people to remain safely in their homes while receiving nursing care. She grew the business organically to a multimillion dollar company until it was acquired by a publicly traded corporation in October 2020. Martina serves as Board Chairperson of the Irish Cultural Centre of Greater Boston and is the first female to hold this position. She's an active member of the New England Council, Irish Network Boston, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and Co-founder of Mná Mheiriceá.

In 2019 she was an honoree at the Irish Echo Small Business Impact Awards honoring Irish American entrepreneurs and business leaders receiving the Care Ambassador Award. Martina has a deep fondness for her beloved Co. Clare where she was born and raised. She is an avid outdoors person and has completed three Boston Marathons. She is currently an EMBA Candidate at Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School. Martina resides in the Back Bay with her husband Craig.

Her motto to live by is, "Goals are achieved through hard work, high standards and surrounding yourself with good people."

Maura McNally Chair of ATU Governing Body and of the Bar Council of Ireland

A native of Dromod, Co. Leitrim, Ms McNally was called to the Bar in 1992 and practised on Circuit until her appointment to the Inner Bar in 2017. Following postgraduate studies at Warwick University (LLM) and UCG (BA and LLB), she completed her Bachelors of Law in King's Inns and practices civil law, primarily in personal injury, chancery and non-jury. Ms McNally was elected as chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland in 2020

and is only the second female to hold this prestigious position.

On 11 February 2022, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, signed the Statutory Instrument legally establishing the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) and set its commencement date as 1 April 2022.

Professor Malachy Ó Néill Director of Regional Engagement at Ulster University

Professor Malachy Ó Néill is Director of Regional Engagement at Ulster University (since August 2021), taking responsibility for relationships with key stakeholders including governmental agencies, councils, trusts and other relevant authorities on behalf of the institution. He was awarded a Personal Chair in Irish (2020) and was Provost of the Magee Campus in Derry (2016-21) and Head of the School of Irish Language and Literature (2012-17). He has played a central role in a range of strategic initiatives for the University including City and Growth Deals (UK Government), Shared Island (Irish Government), the inception of a School of Medicine (opened 2021), the development of the North West Cross-border Tertiary Cluster (with FE/HE partners) and the accreditation of Derry/Strabane as a UNESCO Learning City Region.

He was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in 2019, the highest accolade in UK Higher Education and is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Authority. He was appointed to the Department for Communities' Irish Language Strategy Expert Advisory Panel in 2021 was a member of the Irish Government's Review Board of the Official Irish Language Standard (2016). He was editor of *An tUitach* (2008-10) and his research includes modern Irish pedagogy, the Ó Néill dynasty and Irish language theatre and he is Lead Investigator (Northern Ireland) in the c.€4million Shared Island social capital research initiative with NUI Galway, University of Limerick and Atlantic Technological University. He is a Board member of the Causeway and Derry Chambers of Commerce and Temporary Chair of the Governing Body of North West Regional College.

Professor Ó Néill enjoys close ties with the Donegal Gaeltacht, having spent many years in Machaire Rabhartaigh and Gaith Dobhair facilitating courses for teenagers and adult learners of Irish. He resides in his native parish of Ardboe, Co. Tyrone, with his wife Ursula and their three children, Proinsias, Tomás and Sorcha.

Continues on page 14



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Údarás na
Gaeltachta



Laura Hamilton



Martina Curtin



Maura McNally



Professor Malachy Ó Néill



Rónán Mac Con Iomaire

Rónán Mac Con Iomaire

Director of Regional, Community & Language Development for Údarás na Gaeltachta

Rónán Mac Con Iomaire is Director of Regional, Community & Language Development for Údarás na Gaeltachta, and is responsible for micro-enterprise, language planning and community development, among other areas. Údarás na Gaeltachta is the State body responsible for the economic, cultural and social development of Ireland's Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) regions.

Previously, Rónán was RTÉ's Group Head of Irish Language and Deputy Head of RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta. Rónán has a background in media and entrepreneurship, having spent many years working as a journalist across a broad range of platforms. He has founded several of his own companies, operating primarily in the marketing and hospitality sectors.

Rónán was awarded New Writer of the Year for his biography of Boston-based Irish boxer, Seán Mannion, a book that went on to become the fastest-selling Irish language book of all time and on which the award-winning feature documentary, Rocky Ros Muc, was based. Rocky Ros Muc was the first Irish-language feature to be longlisted for an Academy Award. Rowman & Littlefield published his second book, The Man Who Was Never Knocked Down, in 2018. He is currently working on a third book on the Gaeltacht Civil Rights Movement.

Sara Stanton

Managing Director, Cara Group Travel

Cara Group Travel was established in 2012 by Sara Stanton. Sara was born in County

Mayo Ireland and for the past 20 years, she has worked in the travel industry in the United States. The passion, expertise, experience and genuine personal touch offered by Sara is what makes booking with Cara Group Travel the perfect choice.

Stephen Gillespie

Director of Business and Culture at Derry City and Strabane District Council

Stephen Gillespie is the Director of Business and Culture at Derry City and Strabane District Council. The Business and Culture directorate encompasses a range of services such as economic development and job creation, business support and engagement, ICT, tourism, arts and culture, visitor services, heritage and museums and marketing and communications.

Stephen believes that councils have a growing responsibility to ensure that positive growth and development can continue at a local level, and in his capacity as Director of Business and Culture – two key economic areas for the North West – has been working to promote the City and District both on a local and international level.

"This is an exciting time for Derry and Strabane as we work through the next stage of our City Deal bid, making cases for a portfolio of strategic growth projects that will drive innovation, including the delivery of centres of innovation and excellence in data analytics (CARL) and robotics and automation (CIDRA) together with the key smart/digital City and Region initiatives.

"On the business front Council already offers a strong programme of support for entrepreneurship and new business start-ups which provides the expertise needed to nurture fledgling companies and incentivise and inspire new talent. We

have also been strengthening our international business links with the City of London, the US and China ensuring that word gets out about our unique proposition as an area ripe for investment and growth."

With the publication of a raft of new strategies in the areas of Arts and Culture and Tourism, Stephen is confident that Derry and Strabane now has the blueprint to develop a thriving creative economy, and become an outstanding visitor destination brimming with heritage and culture.

"Council has been working closely with a wide range of partners to establish the best way forward in supporting and empowering our creative community. We have the potential to become a significant cultural hub, which will also enhance our appeal as a visitor destination with a strong heritage offering celebrating the many historical and cultural assets we have to offer.

"On a broader spectrum, we are also making good progress in the delivery of the Strategic Growth Plan for the City and District with major strides already evident in our first Statement of Progress, showing that we are on track in our overarching plans to transform the North West for the better."

Stephen qualified as an accountant in 1996 having trained in an industrial setting with Desmond and Sons, the clothing manufacturer. He then moved on to become the Financial Controller at Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners. This private sector experience has been invaluable in the current role.

Sian Farrell

CEO, StimOxyGen

Sian Farrell graduated with a 1st Class Honors MPharm Degree at Ulster

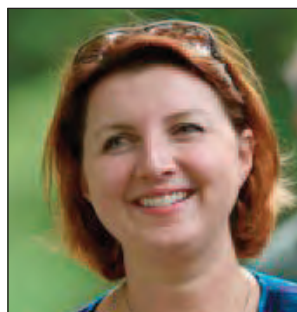
University in 2015. Upon completing her pre-registration training at Bristol Royal Infirmary she remained there as a band 6 rotational pharmacist undertaking patient facing roles on oncology wards and gaining experience in specialist aseptic services.

In the final stages of her PhD, Sian began investigating the commercial value of StimOxyGen technology and led the team through ICURe (Innovate UK). With experience in both clinical and academic research settings, Sian has developed a passion for technology transfer from bench to bedside and is determined to improve the lives of cancer patients on a global scale.

Síghle FitzGerald

Síghle FitzGerald has over twenty years' experience working as a career diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs. She has served as Cultural and Press Attaché in Ireland's embassies in Madrid and Washington DC and was assigned to Ireland's Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels during Ireland's Presidency of the EU in 2013. Síghle became Joint Director General of the International Fund for Ireland in 2021 having previously served in the North South Ministerial Council in Armagh.

Síghle has extensive experience working in the area of international affairs, including Irish-US political relations through her work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and also with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, a non-for-profit organisation based in Washington where she worked for almost a decade. A graduate of NUI Galway, Síghle has an honours degree in English & Political Science and a post graduate Diploma in Public Relations from DCU.



Sara Stanton



Sian Farrell



Stephen Gillespie



Síghle FitzGerald



NI Bureau

Northern Ireland Executive
North America

**CULTIVATING LINKS BETWEEN
NORTHERN IRELAND AND NORTH AMERICA**

Website www.nibureau.com | Twitter: [@NI_Bureau](https://twitter.com/NI_Bureau)



ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Atlantic Technological University (ATU) is one of the largest multi-campus universities on the island of Ireland and spans the Western Seaboard from Donegal to Galway serving a diverse group of learners, staff, communities and organisations from our region and further afield.

We offer a rich combination of academic and research excellence, quality of life and opportunity – all of which can be experienced in the most beautiful part of Ireland. Atlantic TU has the critical mass and academic depth to attract, educate, nurture and retain talent in the west, north-west and cross-border region. Our collaborative approach ensures that we deliver practice-orientated study, and research that seeks to address the major challenges facing society and the world. As a multi-campus technological university, we are dedicated to enabling sustainable economic, social and cultural development; connected to our region and with a mindset that reaches far beyond it.

As a TU of scale, quality and impact, the University will have greater capacity for collaboration with international partners and ATU graduates will have excellent employment potential nationally and internationally.

<https://www.atu.ie>



CROITHLÍ IRISH WHISKEY

Established in 2018, the boutique Croithlí distillery is the first fully functioning licenced whiskey distillery in Donegal for 180 years. Located in Crolly, County Donegal, set between the wild Atlantic coast and the majestic Errigal Mountain, our distillery home is in the heart of the Donegal Gaeltacht, an area of outstanding natural beauty and steeped in history and culture. The beautiful, cut stone building has been a significant presence in the life of the community since it was built in 1901 and now, sensitively restored, finds new purpose as a working distillery, brand home and visitor experience. In keeping with local Gaeltacht distilling tradition, we use direct fired pot stills in our double distillation, sourced in the Cognac region and refurbished to produce beautiful spirit in Croithlí.

Our brand identity and values represents timeless connections formed by the history of the building, the landscape with its clean natural water and pure Atlantic air, the Gaeltacht culture and the restoration of old to new. We are passionate about creating innovative, boutique whiskeys that will generate excited anticipation amongst whiskey connoisseurs. Our first release, inspired by the townland – Coillín Darach (small oak

grove) on which the distillery is located is matured in Ex bourbon casks and then finished in species specific virgin oak casks including Sessile, Alba and Robur.

The Croithlí distillery experience tells stories of local mythology, hardship, the many past lives of the historic building and Donegal's unique connection to the invention of whiskey. Tastings include the Coillín Darach oak species series, new make spirit and small batch releases.

Buy on-line through thecroilydistillery.com

INVEST NI

Invest NI is the economic development agency for Northern Ireland, a business-friendly region with a world class reputation for innovation. With teams all over the world, Invest Northern Ireland is responsible for growing the local economy by helping new and existing businesses to compete globally and by attracting foreign direct investment to Northern Ireland with a particular focus on sectors such as financial services, cyber security, advanced manufacturing and life and health sciences.

North America is Northern Ireland's greatest source of Foreign Direct Investment with companies such as Citi, IBM, Rapid7, Imperva and Aflac having established centers of excellence in the region, benefiting from a highly skilled and educated workforce, superb infrastructure, competitive costs and Invest NI support programs. We work in partnership with councils in the North West to support local businesses and attract investment to the region. International companies such as Seagate, Alchemy, Allstate, Terex and FinTru have flourished in the North West thanks to its pro-business environment, quality of life and strategic importance as a gateway to EU and GB markets.

Following the UK's exit from the European Union, Northern Ireland continues to have access to the GB and the EU markets for goods. It is the only location where businesses can operate free from customs declarations, rules of origin certificates and non-tariff barriers on the sale of goods to two of the world's largest markets.

Invest Northern has a network of offices across the Americas, including New York, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco in the US, Toronto in Canada and Mexico City and Santiago, Chile in LATAM. Invest NI is committed to continuously driving growth and innovation across the North West. Golden Bridges is a remarkable opportunity to nurture existing and new partnerships across the Atlantic and to showcase the North West region as an incredible place to live, work, study, visit and invest.

<https://www.investni.com>

IRELAND NORTH WEST

Who We Are?

Ireland Northwest is the fourth largest population centre on the island of Ireland. Our unique cross border location provides unfettered access to UK and EU markets, with a total market opportunity of 5.14 million people.

The Ireland Northwest region is comprised of both Derry City and Strabane



District Council and Donegal County Council areas with a population of 350,000 residents and a strong track record in attracting FDI

with over 40 current overseas businesses serving international markets from the region.

Why Invest in the Ireland Northwest Region?

- Strategic border location – Unfettered access to both EU & UK markets.
- Talent – Highly skilled, loyal and educated labour pool/talent pipeline.
- Digital connectivity – Directly connected to America and Europe through high-capacity fibre optic cables.
- Established location - Dynamic Existing Clusters in Fintech, Medtech & Advanced Engineering.
- R&D - State of the art Research and Innovation Hubs through third-level institutes and private sector organisations.
- Leaders in the area of Remote and Hybrid working.
- Partnership - Support from Government Departments, Local Authority, local Chamber of Commerce and academia working hand in hand with industry to ensure your NW operations will be a success.
- Agility – Ability to develop education and skills programmes tailored to support companies investing.



IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Honoring our heritage. Investing in Ireland's future.

The Irish American Partnership is dedicated to connecting Irish Americans and friends of Ireland to their heritage through targeted giving – we invest in education, community development, and peace initiatives across the island of Ireland. Since our inception by the Irish Government in 1986, our supporters have raised more than \$53 million for young people and communities, North and South, empowering and educating the next generation of global leaders. More than 650 primary schools, higher educational institutions, and community organizations have received funding.

The Partnership has etched a place of honor for itself in the hearts and minds of its Irish constituency - also providing a forum for visiting leaders from Ireland to speak in the U.S., connecting Irish Americans with their heritage and promoting economic development through tourism, trade, and mutual exchange. The Irish government, the Northern Ireland Assembly, the British government, and Cabinet-level members of the US Government have endorsed the

organization, applauding the continued non-partisan support it has provided to both the North and South of Ireland.

www.irishap.org

TOURISM IRELAND



Tourism Ireland is the organisation responsible for promoting the island of Ireland overseas as a leading holiday destination. It was established as one of the "six areas of co-operation" under the framework of the Belfast Agreement of Good Friday 1998. Tourism Ireland's remit is to increase tourism to the island of Ireland and to support Northern Ireland to realise its tourism potential.

Tourism Ireland delivers world-class marketing programmes in over 20 markets across the world. Targeted marketing activity includes TV advertising, outdoor media, print, digital advertising, social media, influencer marketing, overseas publicity, co-operative marketing with carriers and other partners, and promotions to the travel trade and consumers.

In 2019, the island of Ireland welcomed almost 11.3 million overseas visitors to the island of Ireland, delivering revenue of over €5.8 billion which supported 325,000 vital jobs in communities across the island.

<https://www.tourismireland.com>



NORTHERN IRELAND BUREAU

The Northern Ireland Bureau is the diplomatic mission of the Northern Ireland Executive in the United States and Canada. We work to cultivate and strengthen links between various political, economic, educational, and cultural interests in Northern Ireland and North America. We also serve as a resource for individuals and organisations looking to learn and understand more about Northern Ireland, and about its relationship with the United States and Canada.

Our primary role is to promote Northern Ireland in the USA and Canada as:

- a creative, dynamic, peaceful and flourishing place, with an outward-looking, modern and resilient approach;
- a great partner for business trade and investment, for tourism, for policy collaboration and for further and higher education, including collaboration on research and development; and
- a region that is a showcase for the benefits of meaningful engagement and collaboration across the political spectrum, of the kind that helped deliver a peaceful Northern Ireland.

We work closely with a number of organisations, businesses, and institutions throughout the year to showcase the many positive developments and contributions—political, academic, cultural and civic—that are of interest to our North American audience.

<https://www.nibureau.com>

GOLDEN BRIDGES SPONSOR PROFILES



Údarás na
Gaeltachta

ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA

Údarás na Gaeltachta is the state development agency with responsibility for the economic, social, and cultural development of Ireland's Gaeltacht (Irish Speaking) regions. The Gaeltacht regions cover parts of Counties Donegal, Galway, Cork, Kerry, Mayo Waterford and Meath.

Údarás na Gaeltachta has two key goals: the preservation of Irish as the living community language in the region, and the economic development of the Gaeltacht, to provide employment and to ensure that the Irish-speaking community can live, work and thrive in Gaeltacht areas.

The Gaeltacht is an innovative and forward-looking region with an entrepreneurial mind-set and an emphasis on promoting and supporting enterprise. The Gaeltacht is the location for a range of world-class companies selling goods and services to all parts of the world, companies such as Randox Laboratories a world leader in healthcare technology and ProAmpac, a leading global packaging company moving strongly towards innovative

sustainable packaging products, both in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

The abundant natural resources of the Gaeltacht regions on the western seaboard are becoming increasingly important, particularly its rich marine resource and the opportunities afforded by aquaculture, seaweed cultivation and the many areas of added-value arising from these activities. Údarás na Gaeltachta is focusing strongly on the development of the green economy and sees a pivotal role for the Gaeltacht in the development of the bioeconomy in Ireland.

Tourism is another key resource for the Gaeltacht region with projects such as the Sliabh Liag Cliff Walk, Fánad Head Lighthouse and Earagail Mountain being examples of key tourism flagship projects in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

The development of the Gaeltacht Digital Network – gteic – is a key action in the Údarás na Gaeltachta strategy. This network consists of more than 30 digital hubs spread throughout the Gaeltacht region (including offshore islands). These hubs will provide a base and supports for enterprises, for remote workers and for companies wishing to locate elements of their operations in the culturally vibrant Gaeltacht region. GTeic Gaoth Dobhair is a flagship digital hub situated in Gaoth Dobhair Business Park in Donegal.

<https://udas.ie/en>

ULSTER UNIVERSITY

Ulster University is extraordinary. As one of the most complex large institutions within the UK, successfully maintaining a dual focus on research and teaching while actively driving exemplary social mobility and civic engagement. We are a university that spans a region of great potential and great passion. Our focus on People, Place and Partnership tasks that passion with a purpose: to deliver Sustainable Futures for All.

As a multi-campus university, with campuses in Derry~Londonderry, Coleraine and Belfast, we are a physical and transformational presence across this place, deeply connected to these communities and intrinsic to all our futures. Across all campuses Ulster University is working to build the leaders of tomorrow – those who will shape the future of our communities, industries and wider society for the next generation.

In the North West teaching strengths on our Derry~Londonderry campus are shaping future leaders in the areas of life @& health sciences, business, cinematic arts, Irish, music, drama, computing, engineering, nursing and law. It is also home to the School of Medicine and Northern Ireland's only Paramedic Degree Course. Whilst on the Coleraine campus, the focus is on areas such as biomedical sciences, geography and environmental science, psychology, pharmacy, English, history, media and journalism, travel and



tourism, and teacher training.

In 2023, to mark 25 years since the signing of the Belfast Good Friday, Ulster University established the 25@25 Leadership Programme for graduates from the University who live and work here, who are committed to our place in Northern Ireland and who choose to lead Northern Ireland's future. These Ulster University alumni aspiring leaders are currently rising to the top of their fields in international organisations and the programme is designed to expand experiences, grow leadership capacity, and build a long-lasting network of change-makers, with a firm focus on enhancing and defining the next 25 years ahead for NI. By pairing the up and coming leaders of our future with the leaders of today who can share their experiences and expertise of success, Ulster University will play a vital role in shaping the future generations of entrepreneurs, innovators, and change-makers to be the leaders that we have the power to educate and inspire.

Visit www.ulster.ac.uk/twenty-five
and meet the 25 emerging leaders
<https://www.ulster.ac.uk>

GOLDEN BRIDGES CONFERENCE AGENDA

Emcee: Ray O'Hanlon, Editor Irish Echo, New York, NY

Official Opening

Cllr Martin Harley, Méara/Mayor Donegal County Council

Cllr Patricia Logue, Mayor Derry City and Strabane District Council

Seizing New Opportunities

Andrew Elliott, Director Northern Ireland Bureau, Washington D.C.

Keynote: Joseph Kennedy III, U.S. Special Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland

Panel Discussion: Rising to the Challenge with a New Era of Innovation in Northwest Ireland

Chair: Martina Curtin, Founder Mná Mheiriceá, President Irish Cultural Centre of Greater Boston

Panel: Andrea Haughian, Head of Americas, Invest Northern Ireland
Kevin Sexton, Head of Innovation, Alpha Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Donegal County Council
Stephen Gillespie, Director of Business and Culture, Derry City and Strabane District Council

Christina McAlinden, Founder & CEO, Laniveen
Sian Farrell, CEO, StimOxyGen

Strengthening the Irish Language through Economic Regeneration

Rónán Mac Con Iomaire, Director of Regional Development, Údarás na Gaeltachta

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders:

Ulster University's 25@25 Leadership Program

Malachy Ó Néill, Director of Regional Engagement, Ulster University

Fireside Chat: Transforming Ireland's Northwest Tourism Offering and Delivering Sustainable Growth

Moderator: Laura Hamilton, President Boston Irish Business Association
Alison Metcalfe, Executive Vice President, Head of North America & Australia/New Zealand, Tourism Ireland
Sara Stanton, Managing Director, Cara Group Travel, Boston, MA
Kevin Friend, Director 'Golfing the World'

Close: Vote of Thanks from Northwest Ireland
Maura McNally, Chair Atlantic Technological University

Vote of Thanks from Boston and Massachusetts

Síghle FitzGerald, Consul General of Ireland in Boston



Ulster University announces 25@25 Leadership Programme

Ulster University has announced the 25 exceptional leaders selected to take part in its prestigious 25@25 Leadership Programme.

A cornerstone of UU's year-long programme to mark 25 years since the signing of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement, the fully-funded Programme will begin this month with graduates from sectors such as business, technology, health, education, law, finance, public affairs, charity, sustainability, peace-building, youth work and journalism.

The 25@25 Leadership Programme is a learning and leadership development programme for graduates from Ulster University who live and work here and who are committed to our place in Northern Ireland and who choose to lead Northern Ireland's future.

These Ulster University alumni are aspiring leaders rising to the top of their fields in international organisations such as PwC, EY and Factor Law; leading NI bodies, Translink, Catalyst, NI Fiscal Council and Belfast City Council; well-known charities, Macmillan Cancer Support, Cancer Fund for Children and in consultancy, Third Sector Connect, and many others.

The programme is designed to expand experiences, grow leadership capacity and build a long-lasting network of changemakers with a firm focus on enhancing and defining the next 25 years for NI.

Learning will be focused on topics such as Foundations of Leadership, Becoming a Creative Leader, Leading with Sustainability and Leading for the Future.

Throughout the year, the cohort of leaders will take part in nine one-day sessions guided by an extraordinary line-up of talented guest speakers. Already confirmed are BAFTA-winning screenwriter, Lisa McGee; TV presenter and former Irish rugby international player Tommy Bowe; Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and a trailblazer shaping the future of public administration, Jayne Brady; and CEO of Nextdoor, Sarah Friar.

As well as learning from these trailblazers, the participants will benefit from a mentoring programme, including a partnership with the Institute of Directors NI, where participants are partnered with a senior leader from across the region.

Additionally, they will each receive a series of one-to-one coaching sessions with experienced and credentialed International Coaching Federation (ICF) Coaches throughout the duration of the programme.

The young leaders will also have the opportunity to undertake an incredible week-long residential at the prestigious Babson College, Boston, where they will adopt Babson's pioneering Entrepreneurial Thought & Action® methodology, which sets leaders up to drive economic growth and social change.

Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan, University Provost, Ulster University commented: "This year will be the start of a new chapter in Northern Ireland's history. By pairing the up-and-coming leaders of our future with the leaders of today who can share their experiences and expertise of success, Ulster University will play a vital role in shaping future generations of entrepreneurs, innovators, and change-makers to be the leaders that we have the power to educate and inspire."

"Today's titans of industry in the creative arts, healthcare and sustainability, among others, know what needs to be done to secure a bright future for Northern Ireland and thrive on our successes, and Ulster University is providing the platform and the opportunity to do it."

"The future leaders on the 25@25 Programme are going to be world-class because of the world-class leaders that are stepping up to guide them".

The programme is kindly supported by the Garfield Weston Foundation.

To learn more about the programme visit www.ulster.ac.uk/twenty-five

For more details on the 25@25 cohort, visit <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/news/2023/september/exceptional-cohort-of-emerging-leaders-on-25@25-programme>

GOLDEN BRIDGES GALLERY - 2022



Margaret and Michael McCarron, with Maryann McGonagle and Garry Martin.



Brendan McBride and Nuala McGowan.



Brendan McBride and Alison Metcalfe.



Declan Keeney.



Kathryn Ellis and John Beatty.



Andrea Haughian, Kevin O'Connor, Paul Phelan, Garry Martin, and Micheál Ó Duibhir.



*Congratulations & best wishes to
Rosina Gallagher and Hilary Beirne,
on their nominations for the Golden Bridges Awards 2023*

Wishing you both a wonderful day!

*Officers and members – The Donegal Association of NY
President, Tracy McNulty*

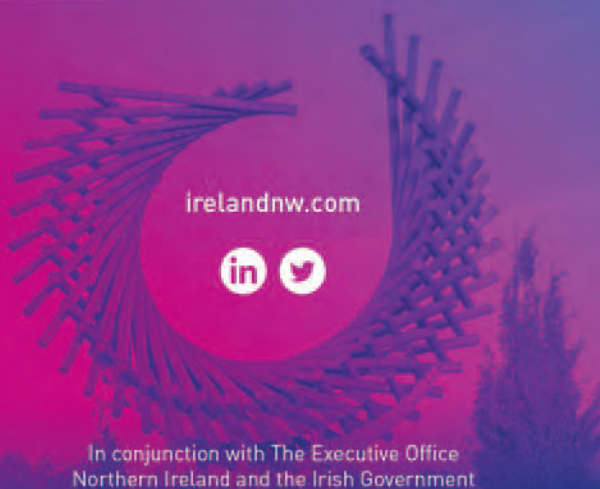


IRELAND'S NORTH WEST CITY REGION

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TALENT - LOCATION - PARTNERSHIP

The Ireland Northwest region is a strategic border location comprised of Derry City and Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council areas with a skilled talent pool in the population of over 350,000 residents. The Ireland Northwest region has a strong track record in attracting Foreign Direct Investment and is a gateway to EU & UK markets.



In conjunction with The Executive Office
Northern Ireland and the Irish Government