

#GoldenBridges



17th Annual GOLDEN BRIDGES

Na Droichid Órga
2025 CONFERENCE
Accelerating Progress

Thursday November 13, 2025 • Babson College, Wellesley, MA



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Golden Bridges '25 Returns to Babson College

By **Ray O'Hanlon**

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

The 2025 conference is set for Babson College in Wellesley, MA. The top rated university specializes in entrepreneurship and business, so is a perfect venue for a conference dedicated to boosting transatlantic links in those very fields.

For the first time in its 17-year history Golden Bridges will welcome Government ministers from both sides of the border.

"We look forward to welcoming Minister Caoimhe Archibald from the Northern Executive and Minister of State Charlie McConalogue from the Irish Government as special guests for what promises to be an inspiring gathering," said event organizer Connla McCann.

Golden Bridges, this year taking place on Thursday, November 13, 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 runs in a conference-luncheon format, is backed by both Invest Northern Ireland and Tourism Ireland, as well as the Atlantic Technological University in Donegal and Ulster University in Derry. This year's conference will be the 17th annual.

Connla McCann, who is also conference co-founder, says the Golden Bridges 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 says.

"We're particularly pleased to have the support of the Consulate General of Ireland Boston in hosting an awards presentation the evening of the luncheon and are thrilled to be holding this year's conference once again at the number one university globally for entrepreneurship, Babson College. President Spinelli recently visited us in Belfast and we look forward to his remarks at our event."



Economy Minister Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA

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



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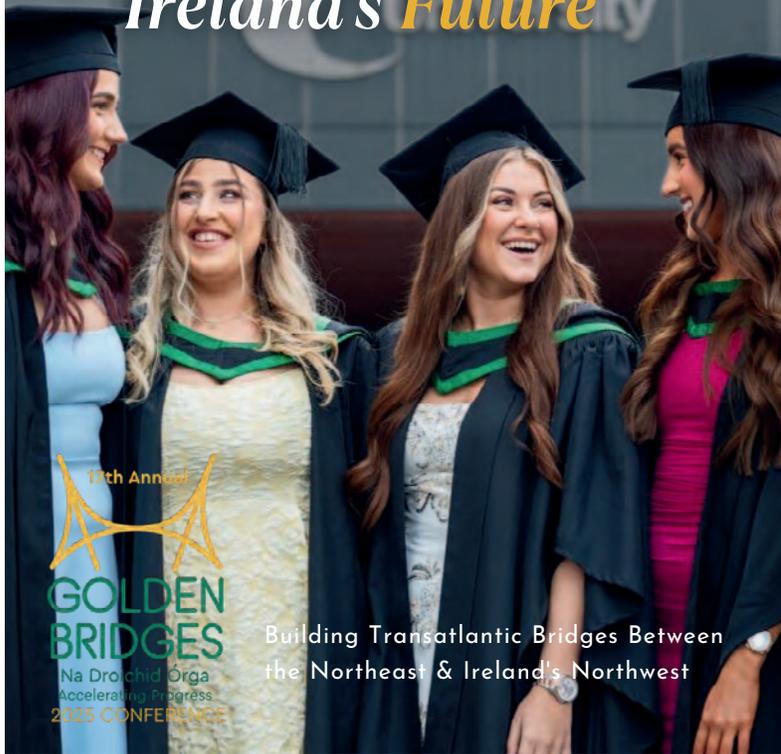


Sean P. Moynihan
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Ocean going trawlers tied up in Killybegs.

Exploring Three Corners of Multi-Cornered Donegal

By Ray O'Hanlon

Back in another life, that Irish one, and as a young reporter, I sat into the wee hours in a pub in Killybegs, County Donegal.

The mission was not to see how much beer I could pack away but rather how long I could last waiting for thirsty fishermen to come through the door fresh off boats that did not sail the ocean to any set schedule.

The pub, you see, had no specific closing time. It was open all hours, or most of them, because, more than just about any other municipality in Ireland, Killybegs was a 24 hour town. Like New York it never slept, or at least part of it didn't. That part was said pub, and the fishermen who frequented it.

Luckily I was young and energetic. The photographer with me was a good deal older but if my youth was keeping me awake his experience was enabling him to remain upright in his seat. It really was like fishing. You had to be patient. And so we were. It paid off because at some hour well off the normal clock in came a band of fishermen. Little did they suspect that they were about to be stars in a story for the Sunday Press.

Fast forward hours, days, years, decades. It's the summer of 2024 and I am back in Killybegs, this time with my wife Lisa, who herself has a keen eye for a good photo.

We're a bit beyond all-nighters in a pub but that's academic because today's Killybegs is a port for much bigger fishing boats than back in the 1980s, and a place of business more adherent to traditional drinking hours.

Killybegs is our base of operations, our jumping off point for the exploration of a triangular slice of Donegal cornered on said town, the majestic Slieve League just a few miles away, and the historical gem that is Donegal Town.

This is all Southwest Donegal. The county is rich in sights and destinations and focusing on one corner of it allows you to, well, focus.

If Killybegs is that first corner, Donegal Town is the second point in the triangle. A gem of a town offering everything from tea to tweed, the historical centerpiece is Donegal Castle, once the stronghold of the O'Donnell chieftains.

The O'Donnells ruled around these parts from the 5th to the 16th centuries. Then of course, as the history books tell us, came the Elizabethan Plantations, the siege and battle of Kinsale, and the flight of the Earls.

That flight did not bode well for clan castles and the Donegal one would end up in English hands. Those hands varied in quality and commitment and the castle would fall into disrepair.

Today it is anything but in disrepair. Much restoration work, including recre-

ation of architectural styles from former centuries, presents the visitor with a combination of older and newer. Part of the restored building is a museum with scale models that give the visitor an idea of life in a medieval fortress.

You don't have to storm Donegal Castle. You merely visit. And it is well worth the time. Also worth the time is the exploration of the wider town which is located on the banks of the River Eske. The center of the town is known as "The Diamond" and just about every door here is worth walking through.

"If Killybegs is that first corner, Donegal Town is the second point in the triangle. A gem of a town offering everything from tea to tweed the historical centerpiece is Donegal Castle, once the stronghold of the O'Donnell chieftains."

But enough of castles with winding stairways and streets with inviting doorways. Onwards to Slieve League, a mountain rampart that is also, on one side, a sea cliff that rises almost 2,000 feet from the waters of the Atlantic. The more Irish version of the name is Slieve Liag. It trans-

lates into the Mountain of Stone Pillars.

It doesn't look like a mountain when you climb with the cliffs to your north. What draws your eye is the sheer drop into the ocean. The mountain doesn't have an evident peak. It's more of a long ridge with the ocean to your left as you proceed along what is sometimes called "One Man's Path." Suffice it to say a full exploration of Slieve League is best carried out in fair weather.

The day we walked it the weather was way better than just fair; indeed it was spectacular, one of those bottle it up days that seemed to astonish visitors from the U.S. and Europe who were probably expecting wind and rain.

After a day on the heights it was back to Killybegs, but not before a stop at a roadside pub called The Rusty Mackerel in Teelin. It was well worth the sojourn and the driver, me, was delighted to be able to quaff a day's thirst with pints of Guinness Zero.

Donegal is a county that deserves attention in detail. By limiting an exploration to specific places and points on the map it is possible to come away with a strong sense of place.

But then, off to other places and points. The next three point sojourn can start with a town, a stretch of coast, or a mountain. Errigal, highest peak in the Derryveagh Mountains, would be a good place to start.

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GOLDEN BRIDGES HONOREES



Elizabeth (Liz) Breadon



Rep James "Jim" Arciero



Oran McGonagle



Dr Peter Aquino



Shaun Morgan



Kathy Flynn and Mayor Ray Flynn

Elizabeth (Liz) Breadon

Councillor, Boston City Council

Ulster University Alumnus
BSc, Physiotherapy, 1982
PGCert, Physiotherapy, 1986
PGDiploma, Health and Social Services
Management, 1993

Originally from Fermanagh, Liz studied at Jordanstown for all three qualifications from UU. After working for the NHS, Liz emigrated to Boston in 1995 and began working as a Physical Therapist at the Boston Medical Centre and then the Perkins School for the Blind, where she remained for 16 years. During this time she also attended the Teleosis Homeopathic Collaborative and Simmons University, receiving a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the latter. Prior to her election to the Council, she launched her own Homeopathy business. Liz was elected as the representative for Allston-Brighton on the Boston City Council in 2019.

Liz has been a passionate activist for the community for over 20 years, contributing to the preserving of The Presentation School Foundation for low-income families and saving the Faneuil Branch of the Boston Public Library from closure. Liz is an advocate for affordable housing, preservation and restoration of green spaces and stronger public schools. As a lifelong environmentalist, she has worked to create solutions to build a sustainable urban community.

As one of the first openly LGBTQ+ women to serve on the Council, Liz has shown extraordinary courage and leadership, using her platform to advocate for marginalized communities and champion the public good.

Recently, Liz stood on the floor of the Boston City Council to speak powerfully in favour of a resolution declaring Boston a sanctuary city for transgender and non-binary individuals.

In a time of growing division, her unwavering stance for human dignity and her commitment to principled governance captured the attention of the press and inspired many across the city and beyond. Her speech was a shining example of public service rooted in empathy and conviction.

Rep James "Jim" Arciero

State Representative, Massachusetts House of Representatives

State Representative James "Jim" Arciero has been proudly serving the 2nd Middlesex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 2009, which includes the towns of Chelmsford, Littleton, and Westford.

In 2025, Representative Arciero was

named by the Speaker of the House to serve as House Chair of the Transportation Committee, where he's leading efforts to make roads safer, modernize transit, and invest in infrastructure that is fair, sustainable, and built to last.

Previously, Representative Arciero served as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing beginning in 2021, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that role, he guided the Legislature through an unprecedented housing crisis and was instrumental in the passage of the Affordable Homes Act of 2024, a landmark, \$5 billion investment that stands as the largest investment in housing in Massachusetts history. Under his leadership, the committee worked to expand housing production, strengthen affordability, provide rental assistance, and combat homelessness statewide.

Beyond his chairmanship roles, the representative also served as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Export Development. Throughout his legislative career, he has been a strong advocate for increased education funding for K-12 and vocational schools, expanded access to reproductive and mental health care, greater benefits for veterans and their families, and environmental policies that promote public health and climate justice for future generations.

A lifelong Westford resident, Representative Arciero has built his career on fighting for better schools, affordable housing, reliable transportation, and a healthier environment for future generations.

At home, he and his wife, Bridget, are raising their daughter, Angelina. When he's not working, you'll probably find him digging through vinyl records, watching a good movie, or shooting hoops with his daughter.

Oran McGonagle

Owner, McGonagle's Pub

Oran McGonagle is an Irish-born hospitality entrepreneur and creative based in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the founder and operator behind several acclaimed venues in the Greater Boston area, including NY Times best restaurant, McGonagle's Pub and world famous Irish Pub, The Dubliner, known for their authentic Irish atmosphere, elevated pub fare, and vibrant live music programs.

A hands-on owner with a deep passion for Irish culture, Oran has built his businesses around community, creativity, and experience — from booking top-tier Irish and local artists to World famous artists like Ed Sheeran, Dermot Kennedy, Kingfishr and Amble.

Dr Peter Aquino

Trained medical doctor, neuroscientist and epidemiologist

Dr Peter Aquino is a trained medical doctor, neuroscientist and epidemiologist. He was educated at St Columb's college, Derry and received his medical degree from Queen's University, Belfast, followed by a master's degrees in Neuroscience from King's College, London and Epidemiology from Cambridge University.

He worked in the NHS in both hospital medicine and general practice before entering the pharmaceutical industry where he has worked for major pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer and J and J as both a pharmacoepidemiologist and pharmacovigilance physician. Currently residing in Boston, Massachusetts, he is a member of the US Health and Life Science Advisory Board where he provides expert advice on clinical trials and drug safety. He is passionate on building connections between the North-West of Ireland and the United States, particularly in fields of biotechnology and medicine.

Shaun Morgan

Senior International Officer at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Shaun Morgan, a native of Glengormley Co. Antrim, is the Senior International Officer at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he leads internationalization efforts including study abroad, global partnerships, and support for international students and scholars. Shaun has served as President of the Massachusetts Council for International Education, advocating for expanded access to global learning across the Commonwealth, and currently serves on the leadership team for the NAFSA Region XI (New England). At UMass Boston, Shaun has been instrumental in advancing inclusive, accessible international opportunities and strengthening the university's global footprint through innovative collaborations, in which Ireland has been a major focus. As an Ulster University graduate, Shaun is a champion of public higher education, he is dedicated to fostering cross-cultural exchange, student success, and impactful international engagement.

Kathy Flynn and Mayor Ray Flynn

Kathy Flynn (née Coyne) is a proud lifelong resident of South Boston, deeply rooted in the traditions and values of her Irish heritage. Born to Francis and Winifred McDonagh Coyne of Galway, Ireland, Kathy was the youngest of five siblings in a close-knit family. Her father,

Frank, worked as an ILA longshoreman alongside Steve Flynn, Ray's father, on the very docks that would later be named the Raymond L. Flynn Cruiseport in the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park. Her mother, Winnie, served the community through her work at Carney Hospital in Dorchester, instilling in Kathy a strong sense of compassion and service.

Throughout her life, Kathy has been a tireless advocate for those in need. Her work with special needs children and underprivileged families has touched countless lives across Boston. Whether volunteering with South Boston Special Kids, serving holiday meals at local parishes, or assisting seniors in her neighborhood, Kathy's generosity knows no bounds. She is known for her open heart and willingness to help anyone—regardless of their background or circumstances. Her motto could easily be "never say no," as she consistently offers a helping hand to those facing housing challenges, health care access issues, or simply in need of a warm meal and kind word.

Raymond L. Flynn - South Boston native and lifelong resident Ray Flynn is an iconic figure in the Boston community and across the Irish Diaspora, with a lifelong commitment to public service and building bridges across various constituencies. Flynn served as mayor of Boston from 1984-1993, and U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican from 1993-1997.

He and his wife Cathy are the proud and loving parents of six children and devoted grandparents of 14 grandchildren.

On the Irish front, Flynn was instrumental in building economic partnerships and peace initiatives in Northern Ireland. He was an early supporter of the MacBride Principles, and as mayor launched Boston-Ireland Ventures in 1987, focusing on economic development and job creation in Derry. That program evolved into the Ireland Northwest initiative that continues today, as evidenced through the annual Golden Bridges conference.

On immigration, Flynn began lobbying for additional visas for the Irish back in 1971 as state representative, and in 1987, he created Boston's first Immigrant Rights Department at City Hall to help newcomers with health care and legal services.

In 2016, the city of Boston renamed its marine industrial park to the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park in his honor, and also a nearby bridge, in homage to his tireless efforts to build bridges across Boston's neighborhoods. In 2018, Massport renamed its cruiseport as the Raymond L. Flynn Cruiseport. Flynn created the cruiseport in 1986 as a way to help to stimulate economic activity on the Boston waterfront and to support Boston's longshoremen, of which his father and father-in-law were proud members.

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Alison Metcalfe



Andrea Haughian



Andrew Fleming



Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA



Charlene McCrossan



Charlie McConalogue TD



Chyanne Holmes

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

Executive Vice President, Head of Americas Invest Northern Ireland

A recognized expert in Foreign Direct Investment, international trade, offshore development and global business expansion, Andrea Haughian has helped C-Level executives accelerate business growth, maximize profitability and facilitate recruitment, training and R&D. Andrea's experience spans a diverse range of sectors including creative and digital technology, financial services, legal and professional services, life and health sciences, green economy, manufacturing and global start-ups.

Andrea is proud to showcase the talents of home-grown companies and innovators and to enable entrepreneurs to make connections with advocates and influencers in challenging markets across the Americas. Andrea is an advocate for the advancement of women and the promotion of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and is a long-time supporter of Young Enterprise.

Andrea received the Global Recognition Award at the Digital DNA Awards 2019. The Global Recognition Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant impact on Northern Ireland's digital and technology sector on a global scale. In 2021 Andrea received the Tom Moran Business to Arts Leadership Award for her success in building successful partnerships between the business sector and arts communities. Andrea is a past Irish Echo Top 40 Under 40 Awards honouree, has been named as one of Irish America's Most Influential Women by the Irish Voice and is a proud recipient of the Belfast International Homecoming Ambassador medal.

Andrea is based in New York, is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, has undertaken post-graduate programs in both San Francisco and Chicago and is a graduate of Cornell University's Executive Leadership Programme.

Andrew Fleming

Fleming Engineering & LondonDerry Chamber of Commerce

Andrew is the Chief Executive at FNW Group having become Managing Director at Fleming Engineering in 2007. After joining the Board in 2017, Andrew current serves as President of the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce adopting the mantra of 'Ambitious Regional Collaboration' as the theme of his presidency.

A native of St Johnston Co Donegal, Andrew returned to the North West following many years studying, travelling, living and working abroad in Edinburgh, London, Sri Lanka and New Zealand amongst others.

Andrew has always had a vested interest in his local communities of Donegal, Derry, and the wider North-West region as well as across both Ireland and Northern Ireland. He is ambitious with a focus on people and growth and has an active interest in supporting the development and prosperity of the North-West region.

Andrew has been involved in sport since a very young age with a particular interest in cricket, rugby and golf and has maintained connections to sport representing on local, regional, and national committees and supporting financially through Fleming Engineering Ltd. He currently serves as Chair of the Game Development and Growth Committee and sits on the Board at Cricket Ireland.

Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA

Minister for the Economy of Northern Ireland

Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA was appointed Economy Minister on 3 February 2025. Previous to this, Caoimhe served as Finance Minister from February 2024.

Caoimhe grew up in Coleraine. She attended Loreto College, Coleraine and graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with a BSc in Molecular Biology and a PhD by research with a Department of Agriculture and Rural Development studentship. She also completed a Postgraduate diploma in Management & Corporate Governance at Ulster University.

Caoimhe was elected as an MLA for East Derry in May 2016 and re-elected in March 2017 and again in May 2022. She is formerly Chair of the Assembly's Economy and Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs committees.

Prior to being elected in May 2016, Caoimhe had worked for almost a decade in applied horticulture and plant pathology research including on collaborative EU funded projects.

Charlene McCrossan

Business Owner & Manager McCrossan City Tours Derry

Charlie McConalogue TD

Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport

Charlie McConalogue is the Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, with Special Responsibility for Sport and Postal Policy.

Born in Gleneely in Co. Donegal, he attended Carndonagh Community School before studying Economics, Politics, and History at UCD, where he first became involved in politics. After working in Fianna Fáil headquarters and spending time abroad in Australia, he returned home to work on the family farm.

In 2009, Charlie was elected as a Donegal County Councillor for the Inishowen area. Two years later, he became a TD for Donegal North-East. He was re-elected to the Dáil in the General Elections of 2016, 2020 and 2024. He was the Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Children from April 2011 to July 2012. In July 2012, he was appointed as party spokesperson on Education and Skills.

In July 2020, he was appointed as Minister of State at the Department of Justice with Responsibility for Law Reform. In September 2020, he was appointed as Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Following his re-election to the Dáil in November 2024, he was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, with Special Responsibility for Sport and Postal Policy by Taoiseach, Micheál Martin.

Chyanne Holmes

Deputy Director, Northern Ireland Bureau, Washington, D.C

Chyanne Holmes is Deputy Director of the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington, D.C., where she leads efforts to strengthen Northern Ireland's political, economic, and cultural ties across North America. She brings deep expertise in diplomacy and strategic engagement, honed through senior roles in the Northern Ireland Civil Service and over six years in Brussels during Brexit negotiations and COVID-19. At the UK Mission to the EU, she led high-impact campaigns and expanded international networks. Her earlier work in the European Parliament and Northern Ireland Executive Office focused on advancing Northern Ireland's interests on the global stage. Chyanne plays a key role in shaping the Bureau's transatlantic outreach and influence to North America.

Cllr Donal 'Mandy' Kelly

Leas-Chathaoirleach of Donegal County Council

Cllr Donal 'Mandy' Kelly was co-opted onto Donegal County Council in September 2020 as a member of the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District and successfully re-elected in June 2024 at the Local Government Elections. An active and committed community representative he has worked hard to help his constituents access council services and had been a strong advocate in terms of driving improvement in his local community.

Working on the ground he has championed the needs of local residents and strived to build long-term relationships with a number of community organisations. He has campaigned continuously for road safety improvements, water supply upgrades and the provision of social housing.

A farmer by trade he has strongly emphasised the need for crucial supports to be put in place for the agricultural sector.

Cllr Kelly currently serves on the Agricultural Committee and the Donegal County Council Value for Money Committee together with the Community, Social, Cultural and Gaeltacht Strategic Policy Committee and the Economic Development, Enterprise & Emergency Strategic Policy Committee.

In 2024 he was appointed Chairperson of the Community, Social, Cultural and Gaeltacht Strategic Policy Committee and in his capacity as Chair of this committee serves on the Donegal County Council Corporate Policy Group which is the policy making body of the Local Authority.

His hard work and dedication were rewarded in June 2022 when he was elected Mayor of the Letterkenny/Milford Municipal District where he used his term in office to highlight the many positive developments in the Letterkenny area.

Garry Martin

Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services at 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



Cllr Donal 'Mandy' Kelly



Garry Martin



Prof. Graham Heaslip



Hughie Mac Suibhne



Professor Malachy Ó Néill



Martina Curtin



Maureen Bennett

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.

Prof. Graham Heaslip

Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing and Head of College Galway-Mayo

Graham is Professor of Logistics and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing at Atlantic Technological University (ATU). He is a visiting professor at the Humanitarian Logistics (HUMLOG) Institute at Hanken University, Helsinki, Finland and a visiting professor at UNSW in Australia. Graham's work in the field of logistics and supply chain management has gained international recognition and has been recognised by Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence.

In addition to leading several on-going research projects in logistics and supply chain management, Graham is active as an advisor to many organisations in the fields of logistics and supply chain management. Graham was awarded the James Cooper Memorial Cup for best PhD in Logistics and Supply Chain Management by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

Prior to entering academia Graham spent fourteen years working in the Irish Defence Forces both at home and abroad in a variety of logistical appointments, as well as spending time seconded to Humanitarian agencies in a logistical capacity. Graham's research interests are broadly in the intersections between global logistics/supply chain management, humanitarian logistics, disaster management and organisational management development. Graham is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland.

Hughie Mac Suibhne

Forbairt Gnó, Údarás na Gaeltachta

Hughie Mac Suibhne is a seasoned business development professional with over two decades of experience spanning the IT sector, seafood industry, and enterprise development. As part of the speaking panel,

Hughie brings deep insight into regional enterprise strategy and innovation.

He currently works with Údarás na Gaeltachta, supporting enterprise growth across the Gaeltacht regions. His role involves helping high-potential businesses—particularly in advanced manufacturing and specialised engineering—through tailored funding, strategic guidance, and long-term aftercare to help them scale and succeed.

Hughie's work is rooted in fostering innovation, sustainability, and regional impact. He is passionate about helping local companies thrive in rural Ireland and grow into world-class players on the global stage.

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 tUltach (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 Gaoth 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.

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 holds an MBA from Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School. Her motto to live by is, "Goals are achieved through hard work, high standards and surrounding yourself with good people."

Maureen Bennett

Partner, Jones Day

Maureen Bennett represents life sciences and health care clients conducting global clinical trials and research collaborations. For more than 20 years, Maureen has advised life sciences companies, CROs (contract research organizations), academic medical centers, health care systems, patient focused organizations, and digital health companies on the contractual, regulatory, and ethical issues associated with clinical research.

Maureen regularly advises clients on emerging issues in clinical research, such as strategies to meet clinical trial diversity and health equity objectives, the design and implementation of compliant decentralized clinical trials and telemedicine networks, the structuring of patient recruitment programs, and the development of complex outsourcing arrangements between

sponsors, CROs, and site management organizations. She has assisted several clients regarding the conduct of global trials for therapeutics and vaccines to address COVID-19.

Maureen also negotiates clinical trial agreements, reviews informed consents, and assists with interactions with and inspections by regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

She also represents clients in the assessment and mitigation of regulatory risks and the negotiation of liability allocation arrangements in M&A, licensing, and other commercial transactions.

Maureen formerly served as co-chair of the Boston Bar Association's Health Care Section. She was honorary co-chair for the 8th Annual Boston-Northwest Ireland Golden Bridges Conference 2022 and is a regular speaker at health industry conferences. Maureen is a member of the national Board of Directors for Lambda Legal and is co-chair of the Jones Day LGBTQ+ affinity group. She is a member of the Boston College Women's Softball Advisory Board.

Maureen Cuddihy

Co-director of Welditz Engineering.

Maureen is the other co-director of Welditz Engineering. Previous to returning to Donegal to join her brother's business, she was a multi-award winning customer strategist in London and San Francisco. She's spent over 20 years delivering results for some of Britain and America's best loved brands e.g. Specsavers, Boots, American Express, IBM, Vodafone, O2. Since returning home, Maureen is also a Mentor on the Donegal LEO panel.

Rónán Mac Con Iomaire

Director Regional Development, Community & Language Planning, Údarás

Rónán Mac Con Iomaire is Director of Regional, Community Development & Language Planning, and is responsible for micro-enterprise, language planning and community development, among other areas.

Previously, he was RTÉ's Group Head of Irish Language and Leascheannaire (Deputy Head) of RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta. Rónán has a background in media and entrepreneurship, having spent many years working as an award-winning journalist, as Local Government Correspondent for Nuacht RTÉ and TG4, as well as for publications such as the Irish Independent, Evening Herald and Irish Times.

Continues on page 12



Maureen Cuddihy



Rónán Mac Con Iomaire



Mayor Cllr Ruairí McHugh



Sara Stanton



Stephen Gillespie



Dr. Stephen Spinelli Jr.



Thomas Havlin

Continued from page 11

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 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. Rowman & Littlefield published his second book, *The Man Who Was Never Knocked Down*, in 2018.

Mayor Cllr Ruairí McHugh

Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council

Forty-six-year-old Ruairí McHugh is the son of Sylvia and the late Cllr Charlie McHugh (Deceased Oct 2008). Charlie was the first Sinn Féin rep ever elected to the former Strabane District Council in 1985. He has two older sisters, Sara and Seodhna.

Ruairí was co-opted to replace Charlie in November 2008 and has been subsequently elected in each local government election since. He has served as Chair of Strabane District Council in 2013 and as Chair of both the Environment and Regeneration Committee and the Health and Community Committee during his time on Derry City and Strabane District Council.

He is a former pupil of St. Patrick's P.S. Castledearg, C.B.S. Omagh, NWFH Derry, and Ulster University, Jordanstown, where he graduated with a BSc Politics.

As well as his Councillor role he is the Sinn Féin Constituency Office Manager based in Strabane and has worked as a political advisor to West Tyrone Sinn Féin in the past.

Ruairí is known as an easily accessible, hardworking Councillor, who is passionate about the development of his local area and ensuring the equitable distribution of projects and funding to the Derg Ward. He has been instrumental in delivering regeneration projects in his hometown of Castledearg, including the town centre regeneration, Derg Castle Park and walkways and the forthcoming upgrade of Mitchell Park playing fields.

Ruairí is a member of his local GAA club, Castledearg St. Eugene's GFC, he is also keen Tyrone GAA fan and a season ticket holder at Celtic FC. In his spare time Ruairí enjoys salmon fly fishing on his local River Derg.]

Sara Stanton

Managing Director, Cara Group Travel

Sara Stanton is the Founder and Managing Director of Cara Group Travel, a leading

custom group travel company based in Quincy, Massachusetts. For over 13 years, she has guided the company's growth and reputation for creating transformative international journeys that inspire connection, education, and cultural exchange.

With more than 25 years of experience in the travel and hospitality industry, Sara is recognized as a trailblazer in international sports travel. She played a pivotal role in developing the Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and has overseen travel logistics for major collegiate basketball events in Dublin and London. Through these initiatives, she has helped bring U.S. collegiate teams abroad, fostering both athletic competition and meaningful cross-cultural engagement.

Sara's expertise also extends to professional learning travel programs. She has curated global journeys for judges and lawyers from the Chicago Bar Association, blending legal education with immersive cultural experiences and has led legislative learning missions for the New York State Legislature, advancing international dialogue and collaboration.

At the heart of Cara Group Travel is the Irish word "Cara," meaning "friend." This spirit of friendship and connection defines Sara's approach to travel and business alike. Guided by her commitment to connection, trust, and personalized service, she continues to shape Cara Group Travel's mission to deliver exceptional group travel experiences across Ireland, Europe, and beyond

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.

Dr. Stephen Spinelli Jr.

President, Babson College

Doctor Stephen Spinelli Jr. MBA'92, PhD is the 14th president of Babson College. A successful entrepreneur, academic leader, and scholar, he assumed the role of president in July 2019.

Dr. Spinelli has spent his career at the intersection of academia, business, and philanthropy. Under his leadership, Babson was named the No. 2 best college in the United States by *The Wall Street Journal* and has retained its long-standing place atop U.S. News & World Report's undergraduate and graduate entrepreneurship rankings.

In collaboration with the Babson community, Dr. Spinelli launched a strategic planning process in 2019 aimed at ensuring the College's continued success and financial stability amid market headwinds. The plan, centered on the strategic belief that Babson empowers entrepreneurial leaders to impact communities everywhere, continues to yield positive outcomes from the College and its 46,000 alumni around the world.

As a self-made entrepreneur with an innovative vision for creating and scaling successful business models, he co-founded Jiffy Lube International and was chairman and CEO of the American Oil Change Corporation, helping to pioneer the quick-lube industry across the United States and turning Jiffy Lube into the America's dominant competitor with more than 1,000 service centers.

Dr. Spinelli is a long-standing member of the Babson community. He spent 14 years of his career as a member of the College's faculty, as vice provost for entrepreneurship and global management, and as director of The Arthur M. Blank Center for Entrepreneurship.

In 2007, he became president of Philadelphia University, which later merged with Thomas Jefferson University to form the new Jefferson, where he was named chancellor in 2017.

His entrepreneurial spirit and successful business acumen have led him to numerous leadership roles as a board member, investor, advisor, and educator. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Planet Fitness and a member of the board of directors for Fyzical Therapy and Balance Centers and board of advisors for the Berwind Corporation. Dr. Spinelli earned his PhD in economics from The Management School, Imperial College, University of London, his MBA from Babson College, and his BA in economics from McDaniel College.

Thomas Havlin

Managing Director, Seabound Engineering Ltd

As founder of Seabound, Thomas Havlin combines his lifelong passion for the sea with a commitment to safety and innovation. Growing up in Donegal's rugged coastal landscape, Thomas learned early the value of reliable boats and the risks of unreliable ones. Alongside his role at Seabound, he serves as a volunteer with the Irish Coast Guard, bringing first-hand knowledge of what's at stake when lives depend on a vessel. For Thomas, every boat Seabound builds is more than a project; it's a promise of safety, performance, and endurance.



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Derry Cítie & Strábane
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Comhairle Chontae
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In conjunction with The Executive Office Northern Ireland and The Irish Government

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ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Atlantic Technological University (ATU) was established in 2022 following the merger of three institutes of technology – Galway-Mayo (GMIT), Letterkenny (LYIT) and IT Sligo. With more than 30,000 registered students, the vast majority of whom are in full-time undergraduate study, ATU is making good on its mission to become a leader in Higher Education in Ireland through its continuously developing academic offering and collaborative partnerships in the private sector.

ATU is one of Ireland's largest universities with eight campuses across the West and North-West, meaning students can enjoy the benefits of a large-scale university, such as access to emerging technologies and research-driven teaching, with the excellent quality of life provided by the natural amenities along the Wild Atlantic Way.

The university and its more than 2,600 staff offers 600 full and part-time programmes from pre-degree to doctoral level, either on campus or via remote learning. ATU is dedicated to preparing its students for the future of work, with the largest proportion of our graduates coming from courses in science, mathematics and computing, engineering, manufacturing and construction.

Find out more at www.atu.ie



BABSON

BABSON COLLEGE

Babson College is a top-ranked private business school in Wellesley, Massachusetts, renowned for its focus on entrepreneurship and innovation.

Babson consistently ranks #1 in entrepreneurship by U.S. News & World Report and was recently named the #2 best college in the U.S. by The Wall Street Journal.

Founded in 1919 by entrepreneur Roger Babson, Babson College has built a reputation as a global leader in entrepreneurial education. Located on a 370-acre suburban campus, the college offers a dynamic learning environment that blends business fundamentals with liberal arts. The school fosters a global mindset, ethical leadership, and hands-on learning.

Babson College prepares and empowers entrepreneurial leaders who create, grow, and steward sustainable economic and social value everywhere. We shape the entrepreneurial leaders our world needs most: those with strong functional knowledge, skills, and vision to navigate change, accommodate ambiguity, surmount complexity, and motivate teams in organizations of all types and sizes.

<https://www.babson.edu>

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'S NORTH WEST CITY REGION
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IRELAND NORTH WEST

Unlock Global Growth Opportunities – Invest in Ireland's North West City Region

Who We Are?

Ireland's North West City Region is the fourth-largest population hub on the island of Ireland, uniquely positioned at the crossroads of the UK and EU markets. Our strategic cross-border location provides

seamless access to a combined market of 5.14 million people.

The region encompasses the areas governed by Derry City and Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council, home to 350,000 residents. With a proven track record in attracting Foreign Direct Investment, the North West is already home to over 40 international businesses that leverage our strategic advantages to serve global markets.

Why Invest in the Ireland Northwest Region?

📍 **Strategic Location:** Enjoy unfettered access to both EU and UK markets, making the region an ideal gateway for international trade.

👥 **Skilled Talent Pool:** Benefit from a highly skilled, educated, and loyal workforce that provides a robust talent pipeline for your business needs.

🌐 **World-Class Digital Connectivity:** Direct access to the US and Europe through advanced high-capacity fibre optic cables ensures superior digital infrastructure.

🏢 **Established Industry Clusters:** Thrive within dynamic clusters in RegTech, FinTech, MedTech, and Advanced Engineering, offering a collaborative ecosystem for innovation.

🔬 **Research & Development Excellence:** Leverage state-of-the-art Research and Innovation Hubs supported by leading third-level institutions and private sector partners.

🏠 **Pioneers in Remote & Hybrid Working:** The region leads in embracing flexible working models, ensuring access to a broad and adaptable workforce.

🤝 **Collaborative Environment:** Benefit from strong partnerships with Government Departments, Local Authorities, the Chamber of Commerce, and academia, all committed to your success.

🎓 **Agility in Skills Development:** We offer tailored education and skills programs designed to support the specific needs of investing companies, ensuring a smooth integration and operation.

Invest in Ireland's North West City Region – where strategic location, skilled talent, and a collaborative business environment come together to fuel your global ambitions.



IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Dedicated to connecting Irish America and friends of Ireland to their heritage through targeted giving – the Partnership invests in education, community development, and peace initiatives across the island of Ireland. Since their inception in 1986, supporters have raised over \$57 million for young people and communities, North and South, empowering and educating the next generation of global leaders. The Partnership provides targeted grants to schools, provides university access

scholarships, funds education centers for homeless youth, supports peace and reconciliation initiatives in Northern Ireland, and champions Gaelic games, Irish arts, culture, and more.

www.irishap.org

#InvestinginIrelandsFuture www.irishap.org



NORTHERN IRELAND BUREAU

The Northern Ireland Bureau is the diplomatic mission of the Northern Ireland Executive in the United States and Canada. Based in Washington D.C., our team works to strengthen and expand Northern Ireland's connections across North America – engaging with partners in government, business, universities and the cultural sector.

We are a trusted resource for individuals and organizations seeking to learn more about, and engage with Northern Ireland, whether through trade, education, policy collaboration or culture. Our mission is to showcase Northern Ireland as a confident, outward-looking region that is a great partner for global engagement. We do this by working closely with American and Canadian institutions (governments, universities, investors, cultural groups, and diaspora networks) to build meaningful, mutually beneficial relationships. Each year, we facilitate delegations, policy briefings, academic exchanges, public lectures and cultural events that strengthen transatlantic ties.

Northern Ireland's global profile is rising, driven by its leadership in areas like cybersecurity, conflict resolution, financial technology, and the creative industries. With more than 34 million Americans and 500,000 Canadians tracing their heritage to Northern Ireland, our connections run deep. The Bureau plays a key role in transforming these connections into new opportunities to visit, study, invest and collaborate.

To find out more visit: www.nibureau.com



TOURISM IRELAND

"Tourism Ireland in North America: Connecting the Diaspora and Driving Tourism"

Tourism Ireland is the national agency dedicated to promoting the island of Ireland as a leading travel destination. Through the campaign "What Fills Your Heart with Ireland," we invite travelers worldwide to experience Ireland's stunning landscapes, vibrant cities, and unique cultural heritage. Our mission is to share what makes Ireland special, from its rugged coastlines and charming towns to the rich history that resonates with visitors of all ages.

As an organization, we're committed to supporting Ireland's economy through tourism, and our efforts have a substantial impact. In 2023, Ireland welcomed over 8 million visitors, who contributed €6.4

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billion to the economy. With an average stay of 7.6 nights, our visitors immerse themselves deeply in the Irish experience, supporting local businesses and communities throughout the island.

We also place a strong focus on connecting with the Irish diaspora, particularly in North America. Our team in New York builds meaningful connections through events and programs tailored to Irish-Americans and their communities, celebrating shared heritage and fostering pride that inspires visits. Whether travelers come to explore their roots or experience something new, Tourism Ireland ensures that Ireland is always a place that fills hearts, invites exploration, and creates lifelong memories for all who visit.

<https://www.tourismireland.com>



ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA

Údarás na Gaeltachta is the State agency responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of Ireland's Gaeltacht regions - areas where the Irish language is

still spoken as a community language. The organisation's primary mission is to preserve and promote the use of Irish as the principal language of the Gaeltacht while simultaneously fostering sustainable economic development in these regions. Údarás achieves this through a variety of initiatives, including:

- Attracting investment and supporting local businesses
- Providing grants and financial incentives for job creation
- Developing infrastructure and business parks
- Implementing the State's language planning process
- Supporting an extensive community development network
- Promoting tourism in Gaeltacht areas
- Providing the gteic network of digital co-working spaces

Údarás na Gaeltachta covers seven Gaeltacht regions across counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork, Waterford, and Meath. These areas face unique challenges, including rural depopulation and limited economic opportunities. By focusing on sectors like technology, marine resources, creative industries, and tourism, Údarás aims to create sustainable employment while preserving the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht.

The agency is governed by a 12-

member board appointed by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. With headquarters in Na Forbacha, Co. Galway, Údarás maintains regional offices throughout the Gaeltacht to ensure close collaboration with local communities.

As a key player in Ireland's language revitalisation efforts, Údarás na Gaeltachta continues to adapt its strategies to meet the evolving needs of Gaeltacht regions, balancing economic development with cultural preservation in an increasingly globalised world.

<https://udaras.ie/en>



ULSTER UNIVERSITY

Ulster University is extraordinary. One of the most complex large institutions within the UK, it maintains a dual focus on research and teaching while actively driving exemplary social mobility and civic engagement. It is a university that spans a region of great potential and great

passion. It's focus on People, Place and Partnership twins that passion with a purpose: to deliver Sustainable Futures for All.

As a multi-campus university, with campuses in Derry-Londonderry, Coleraine and Belfast, it enjoys a physical and transformational presence across the North, deeply connected to 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 teachers on the Derry-Londonderry campus are shaping future leaders in the areas of life and 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.

Ulster University is playing a vital role in shaping the next generations of entrepreneurs, innovators, and change-makers to be the leaders of the future.

Visit www.ulster.ac.uk/twenty-five

GOLDEN BRIDGES CONFERENCE PROGRAM

- 10am** Bus departs from Harborside Inn for Babson College
10:45am Registration
11:15am Ray O'Hanlon, Editor of the Irish Echo

Stepping Up: Accelerating Progress in North West Ireland

Caoimhe Archibald MLA, Minister for the Economy

Panel: North West Makers – Building World-Beating Businesses

Chair: Andrea Haughian, Head of Americas Invest NI

Panel: Thomas Havlin, Managing Director, Seabound Engineering Ltd
Maureen Cuddihy, Director, Welditz Engineering Ltd
Andrew Fleming, Chief Executive FNW Group, & President
LondonDerry Chamber of Commerce
Aodh MacSuibhne, Forbairt Gnó, Údarás na Gaeltachta

Mo Theach Do Theach (My House is Your House):

"Let's Do Great Things Together"

Dr Stephen Spinelli Jr, President of Babson

A Continent of Culture: Inviting our Diaspora to Explore North West Ireland

Charlie McConalogue TD, Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport

Panel: From Vision to Reality – Flagship Projects Driving Change

Chair: Martina Curtin, Chair ICC Greater Boston; Co-Founder Mhá Mheiriceá

Panel: Malachy Ó Néill, Director of Regional Engagement, Ulster University
Stephen Gillespie, Director of Business and Culture, Derry City and Strabane District Council
Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, IS and Emergency Services, Donegal County Council
Graham Heaslip, Dean Faculty of Engineering and Computing, Atlantic Technological University, Co Donegal

Presentation of the Dave Burke Award to Mayor Ray Flynn and Kathy Flynn

Fireside Chat: The City of Derry, Meet the Makers Fuelling Tourism Growth

Moderator: Alison Metcalfe, Executive Vice President, Head of North America & Australia/NZ, Tourism Ireland

Contributors: Charlene McCrossan, Tour Manager & Owner, Martin McCrossan City Tours
Sara Stanton, Managing Director Cara Group Travel, Boston

United In Common Purpose

Cllr Ruairí McHugh, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council
Cllr Dónal 'Mandy' Kelly Leas, Chathaoirleach Donegal County Council

Ionad Domhanda na Gaeilge

Rónán Mac an Iomaire, Stiúrthóir (Director, Regional Development and Language), Údarás na Gaeltachta

Closing Remarks: Chyanne Holmes, Deputy Director, NI Bureau

2:30pm Networking

3:30pm Bus departs from Babson for Harborside Inn

6pm Presentation of the Golden Bridges Awards

Venue: Residence of Consul General of Ireland in Boston
Sighle FitzGerald (By invitation only)

8pm UU Alumni and Friends Networking Event, The Dubliner



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