18th Annual

GOLDEN BRIDGES

Na Droichid Órga

Inspiring Investments

GOLDEN BRIDGES CONFERENCE & AWARDS LUNCHEON 2026

Thursday 12 November 10am-3pm



Venue: Babson Executive Conference Center, 1 Snyder Drive, Babson Park, MA 02457

Program

Thursday 12 November 2026

9:30am	**Boston departs from The Haborside Hotel for Babson College**
10am	**Registration and Networking**
10:45am	**Golden Bridges Conference and Awards**

Céad Míle Fáilte/A Warm Welcome
Katherine Craven, Executive Vice President Administration, Babson College

Official Opening of Conference – Uniting in Common Purpose
Cllr Grace Uí Niallais, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council
Cllr Gary Doherty, Cathaoirleach, Donegal County Council

Presentation of Golden Bridges Ambassador Award.
Announced by Maureen Bennett, Retired Partner, Jones Day
Presented by Cllr Grace Uí Niallais, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council
Recipient: John Harkin, Founder and Board Director, Alchemy Technology Services

Keynote
John Harkin, Founder and Board Director, Alchemy Technology Services

Presentation of Golden Bridges Ambassador Award
Announced by Martina Curtin, President Greater Boston Irish Cultural Center
Presented by TBA /Donegal
Recipient: Declan Houton, Musician

FOYLE PARTNERS

ERRIGAL PARTNERS

CHARITY PARTNER

Program

Presentation of Golden Bridges Ambassador Award
Announced by Nuala McGowan, Senior Director of Research Finance & Compliance, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University
Presented by TBC Derry/Donegal
Recipient: Mary Swanton, Executive Director, Irish Pastoral Center, Boston

Presentation of Golden Bridges Ambassador Award
Announced & Presented by Sean Moynihan, Founder, The Moynihan Group
Recipient: Oran McGonagle, Owner, McGonagle's Pub, Boston

Presentation of Dave Burke Golden Bridges Award
Presented by Patricia Burke
Recipient: Steve Burke, Founder, Boston to Belfast Youth Empowerment

Tourism Fireside Chat
Alison Metcalf, VP North Americas, Tourism Ireland
Brenda Hegarty, Head of Economic Development, Donegal County Council

Funding Inspirational Investments in the Northwest
Gareth Graham, CEO & Founder Belfast Commercial Finance

12pm **Golden Bridges Luncheon & Networking**

1pm **Panel Discussion: Leveraging the Blue Economy**
Chair: Kathryn Ellis, Board Member Net Zero Northern Ireland
Panel: Richard Davey, CEO, Massport
Micheal Gallagher, Innovation Manager, Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Garry Martin, Donegal County Council
Micheal O'Donnell, Island Seafoods
Dr Brendan Jennings, Chief Operating Office for Research, ATU

Fireside Chat: Maintaining Momentum.
John Kelpie, CEO, Derry City and Strabane District Council
John McLaughlin, CEO, Donegal County Council
in conversation with Andrea Haughian, Head of Americas Invest Northern Ireland

Guest of Honor
Minister James Lawless, Department for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
Introduced by Clr Elizabeth Breadon, President of Boston City Council

Close
Chyanne Holmes, Deputy Director Northern Ireland Bureau, Washington D.C.

2pm-3pm **Closing Drinks Reception**
(3pm Bus Departs for Harborside Hotel, Boston)

Business Meeting Rooms: Quiet meeting rooms are available all day for attendee networking, client catch-ups, and one-on-one connections. Sponsored by Benchmark Strategies

5pm **All delegates are welcome to join us for the Golden Bridges after party at The Dubliner, 2 Center Plz, Boston, MA 02108**