

2018 GOLDEN BRIDGES SPEAKERS

Derry City Council and Donegal County Council which took place at the Massachusetts State House. The Fanad Accordion Band Tour of Boston. As part of a committee chaired by then State Representative Martin J. Walsh, 99 members of the group traveled to Boston to take part in the South Boston St Patrick's Day Parade and a week of organized events. In addition Nuala has participated in The Golden Bridges Conference/Awards an annual event between the North West of Ireland & USA.

Nuala has also volunteered on several political campaigns including the Mayor of Peabody MA campaign and the Martin J. Walsh for Mayor of Boston Campaign. In her spare time, she is a current member of The Boston Donegal Association and an avid Donegal GAA supporter traveling to her native Donegal regularly to attend matches. Nuala is honored to be involved in the upcoming 2017 Golden Bridges Awards.



Ryan D. Mahoney

Ryan Mahoney is Executive Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University. The museum contains the world's largest collection of Great Hunger-related art by noted contemporary Irish and Irish American artists as well as a number of period paintings by some of Ireland's most important 19th-century artists.

Prior to joining Ireland's Great Hunger Museum, Mahoney was the Executive Director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, NY. He holds a dual-degree in history and political science from St. John Fisher College and a master's degree in public history from the University at Albany. He has served as a national board member of the Irish American Cultural Institute, as well as a board member of the United

Irish Societies of the Capital District, Inc. He has also been active with the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. In 2016 Mahoney was named an Irish Top 40 Under 40 by the Irish Echo.



Ray O'Hanlon

Ray O'Hanlon is the editor of the New York-published Irish Echo newspaper. A native of Dublin, O'Hanlon has reported from three continents in a 38-year newspaper that has unfolded on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to his work as a reporter and editor, O'Hanlon has been a frequent contributor to U.S., Irish and British media outlets reporting on Ireland, Irish-American affairs, and Anglo-Irish relations. He has appeared on CBS 60 minutes, ABC World News Tonight, and the Lehrer News Hour on PBS. He has also been interviewed on RTE, BBC and ITV, both television and radio. His book, *The New Irish Americans* (Roberts Rinehart, 1998) was the recipient of a Washington Irving Book Award. The South Lawn Plot (Gemma Media, Boston) his first fiction work, was published in 2011. He is currently writing a book on Irish immigration to the United States.



Samantha Traynor

B.A. Hons Educ. PGDip, Vice Principal of North West Regional College
The Newtown Stewart native

has more than 20 years of experience in the education sector, having started out her career as a Primary School teacher.

Samantha joined North West Regional College in 2002, as a Lecturer in Early Years, and has held various positions, including, Head of School and most recently Head of Department Training and Skills. In 2017, she was appointed the Vice-Principal of Curriculum and Information Services.

Samantha is committed to ensuring that the people of the North West region and surrounding hinterlands, including her own area of West Tyrone get the best opportunities that further and higher education can offer them in Northern Ireland. Through the College's dedicated Business Support Centre, she encourages local businesses and industry in the North West to avail of the training and up-skilling opportunities that exist in the College and assists them to source funding to undertake innovative research and development activities.

As Vice Principal, Samantha plays an active role in some of the key city and region economic and innovation forums in partnership with the Regional Councils, Ulster University, Invest NI, Londonderry Chamber, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Donegal County Council through the North West Corridor. NWRC provides an industry focused Professional and Technical Curriculum and is both a NEF (UK) – STEM Assured College and one of 11 leadership colleges in the UK Creative and Cultural sector.

The College Business Support Centre (BSC) provides a range of technical innovation intervention to SME's in association with the Department for the Economy, Invest NI, Inter-trade Ireland and SEUPB. The College has been developing specialisms in Food Technology, Assistive Living and Digital Technologies. All this is underpinned by a strong qualifications base in traditional STEM Curriculum. The College is also active in supporting Invest NI in growing both indigenous industry and attracting foreign direct investment to the City and Region.



Sean P. Moynihan

Attorney Sean P. Moynihan is the founder and principal of The Moynihan Group. He is a 1992 cum laude graduate of Providence College and a 2001 cum laude graduate of Suffolk University Law School's evening division program. He was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in January of 2002. He has a dynamic record of professional experience in the insurance, financial services, non-profit, and public sectors of the economy.

Mr. Moynihan spent over a decade in the public service arena. He served in various positions within the Massachusetts House of Representatives including Counsel to the House Ways and Means Committee, Counsel to the Office of the House Majority Leader, and Legislative Director. During his time in the Ways and Means Committee and the Office of the House Majority Leader, Attorney Moynihan worked on a myriad of significant public policy issues – in particular – energy and the environment, life sciences/biotech, education, labor, and the administration of justice in the Commonwealth.

Attorney Moynihan, who holds dual citizenship with the United States and Ireland, has worked with international organizations, in particular those located in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Moynihan Group has co-sponsored and organized the "Gateways to Tomorrow / Boston – Northwest Ireland" conferences held in Boston since October 2009. Moynihan's efforts in establishing links between his home state of Massachusetts and Ireland was the subject of this article published by the Irish Echo.

Attorney Moynihan serves as Chairman/President of Irish Network Boston (IN Boston) and as Vice President for Global Partnerships of the

Boston Irish Business Association [BIBA]. He also serves on the Irish International Immigrant Center's (IIIC) Internship Advisory Panel. His past volunteer efforts include serving as a "Connector" with the former Boston World Partnerships (BWP) non-profit organization and as a trustee of the Irish Pastoral Centre.

Mr. Moynihan is a former Chairman of the Northboro Democratic Town Committee of Northboro, MA. He has managed and worked on numerous municipal, state legislative, congressional, and presidential campaigns.



Seamus Neely

Chief Executive, Donegal County Council
Seamus Neely has been the Chief Executive of Donegal County Council since 2010. Seamus started his public service career with Donegal County Council before moving to various roles in Local Government in Cavan and Monaghan Town and County Council. Seamus holds an honours degree in Business Studies from the University of Ulster and an MBA from Dublin City University. He is currently a Board Member of Transport Infrastructure Ireland and is Chairman of Donegal Tourism Ltd.

Seamus has led the process of organisational change through a local government reform programme that has resulted in the merger of the four former Town Councils in Donegal with Donegal County Council. These reforms enabled the preparation of a Local Economic and Community Plan for Donegal that provides the basis for the collaboration with Derry City and Strabane District Council in the promotion and development of the North West City Region incorporating Letterkenny / Derry and Strabane as an economic driver for a cross border population of over 350,000 people.