

# 2018 GOLDEN BRIDGES SPEAKERS



**Seamus Ó Domhnaill**

Seamus Ó Domhnaill hails from Falcarragh in the northwest of the Donegal Gaeltacht. A native Irish speaker he first entered Politics in 2009 and was again returned in 2014 topping the poll in both occasions where he represents the Glenties Municipal District on Donegal County Council. He has served as a Member of the Donegal County Enterprise Board up to 2014 and a member of the Planning & Economic strategic policy Committee as well as the Housing and Corporate Policy Committee of the Council since 2009.

Seamus is a member of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly and has served as Chairperson of the assembly in 2014 -2015. He takes particular interest in the promotion of Jobs and Tourism in Donegal believing that the quality of life in the County is unequalled the World over. He understands the challenges that are faced being a peripheral region but commends the strides that have and are being made to improve connectivity to and from Donegal.

Seamus has a particular interest in the GAA having served as Chairperson of his own Club and has progressed to represent Donegal on Central Council and has been elected to the National Management Committee of the association in Croke Park.



**Stephen Gillespie**

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 the local Council provides 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.

With the advent of Local Government Reform, which has seen the creation of a new organisation and the transfer of new powers, Stephen believes that there is a unique opportunity to improve the way local Council's provide services for their stakeholders. 'The organisational structure for this Council now allows us to better serve the needs of our ratepayers. This is an exciting time with the Business element as there are new strands of funding available to help support our local businesses. The Community Plan is critical as it's now well underway and it will help shape our new Council for years to come.'

Stephen believes the cultural / tourism aspect of his directorate has an important role to play for tackling exclusion and disadvantage in Derry City and Strabane District 'This Council area has a myriad of culture based talents, we are a creative and innovative community that lead the way in a range of sectors. We have proved through a range of tourism initiatives and projects, including City of Culture 2013 and our commitment to the Clipper Race that we can perform on a world stage and we need to capitalise on our strengths leading the way in creative and innovative



**Susan K. Whoriskey, PhD**

SVP, Technology Strategy & Business Development, Trucode

Susan Whoriskey, PhD is SVP of Technology Strategy and Business Development at Trucode. Previously, she served on the founding Executive Teams of Cubist Pharmaceuticals (CBST), Momenta Pharmaceuticals (MNTA), and Moderna Therapeutics. As a member of the Executive Teams, Dr. Whoriskey played key roles in building teams, managing translation of academic inventions into therapeutic modalities, completing venture capital financings, overseeing numerous patent filings, negotiating corporate partnerships, completing IPOs (CBST, MNTA) and follow-on financings and achieving four FDA drug approvals to date.

She has been a consultant to the venture capital firm Polaris Venture Partners and an Entrepreneur in Residence at MIT. Dr. Whoriskey earned her BS from University of Massachusetts-Amherst and PhD from UCLA and was a Research Fellow in Molecular Genetics at Harvard Medical School with a 2009 Nobel Prize winner. She is an inventor on numerous issued patents and a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Biotechnology and Entrepreneurism from the University of Ulster.



**Therese Murray**

Former Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray served for over 20 years in the Massachusetts Senate. During her tenure Murray emphasized the importance of our health care industry, working on the original health care reform legislation and authoring three additional health care bills focused on cost containment, quality and access to care. During her tenure as President of the Massachusetts Senate, Murray made international economic development a priority, seeking out partnerships and opportunities for Massachusetts companies and organizations to expand their reach. Seeing the importance of international economic development to the Massachusetts economy, Murray founded MassIgnite following her departure from the Massachusetts Senate.

Murray's success in these international collaboration efforts has afforded her the opportunity to speak about economic development around the world. Murray has earned numerous honorary degrees including: Master's Degrees from Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Westfield State University; Juris Doctorates from Suffolk University of School Law and New England School of Law and an honorary Doctorate in Health from the University of Plymouth (UK). She has also been awarded the medal of St. Olga from the Pskov region of Russia, and, most recently, the 2014 Tip O'Neill Diaspora Award presented to her by Irish President Michael Higgins.