

A Common Denominator

Maths Week Ireland promotes cross-border participation.



IRISH AMERICAN
PARTNERSHIP

Atlantic Technological University

A university's guiding light set to transform the West.

Impact Report

FALL /WINTER 2024



Thank You

So far this year we have provided more than \$2.5 million to students, schools, and communities in need. Read on for stories of impact which you help make possible.

Students at Scoil Cholmáin, Carna, Co. Galway



Dear Friends,

I returned from my fifth Leadership Mission with the same impression felt by many of this year’s delegates—feeling inspired by our impact on the ground in Ireland.



Designed to give supporters a greater understanding of our work – and your impact – this group visited with students in primary and secondary schools, teachers and principals, program leaders, and partners in academia, sports, and the arts over the course of an intensive three-day itinerary across counties Galway and Mayo.

At a time of increased uncertainty one thing is clear: your grassroots investment in Ireland’s youth is creating a brighter, more inclusive future for the next generation.

*I am deeply honored to share with you that this year to date, we have provided **more than \$2.5 million** to students, schools, and communities in need across the island of Ireland.*

Within this *Impact Report* you will read stories of young people who benefit from your generosity, through university scholarships and technical apprenticeships, primary school STEM resources and professional development for educators. Your donation empowers these students at every stage of their educational journey.

I thank you for opening doors and creating opportunities for Ireland’s children. You continue to make a remarkable difference.

Michael T. Clune
Chairman, Irish American Partnership



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Students enjoying the Travelling Maths Fair

Connecting Students Through Maths

*Bringing exciting maths-based activities to primary schools, **Maths Week Ireland** promotes collaboration and inclusivity among Ireland's youngest learners.*

Founded in 2006, Maths Week Ireland is an annual all-island celebration of mathematics. In partnership with over 50 institutes of higher education and other organizations, Maths Week organizes a week-long festival of events in schools and public venues throughout the island promoting positive attitudes towards mathematics.

Cross-community and cross-border participation is an essential part of Maths Week, with young people across the island participating in games and activities designed to cultivate an enjoyment of maths.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, Maths Week identified an increasing need for accessible and interactive programming in primary schools, particularly in Northern Ireland and the border counties. With Partnership support, the organizers successfully piloted a Travelling Maths Fair for 13 primary schools in counties Derry, Donegal, and Tyrone. The participating schools reflect the diversity of modern Ireland, serving students from varied national, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds.

To solve the complex challenges facing Ireland today, the next generation will need this type of creativity, collaboration, and mutual understanding.

The Fair brought together these students giving them a unique opportunity to share space and resources, collaborate, and achieve common goals. Through the universal language of maths, the students connected with one another, shared positive experiences with mathematics, and celebrated their successes together.



Maths Week Workshop participant

Kicking Into Gear

Propelling Irish Athletes Toward U.S. College Success



Mark Jackson, Rory Beggan, Darragh Leader, Tadhg Leader, Charlie Smyth at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis

Growing up in Glasnevin, Dublin, Matthew O’Brien was struggling in school and uncertain about his future. “I wasn’t really a big fan of school,” he recalls. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do after, so I put to the side.” At one point, he even considered dropping out.

Then he discovered Leader Kicking, a program offering young Irish athletes training in American football and a shot at a college education in the United States. For Matthew, this changed everything. “It gave me a new lease on life, a new goal,” he says. Through the program, he found purpose and confidence—qualities that have pushed him to focus both academically and athletically.

Founded with key support from the Partnership, Leader Kicking honors Ireland’s sporting traditions by helping young athletes translate their skills in Gaelic football, soccer, and rugby into those used by kickers in American football.

Beyond training, the program assists participants in navigating the complex recruitment and application process for U.S. colleges.

Though the program is still young, it has already demonstrated tremendous success. In 2023, Leader Kicking’s first two student-athletes graduated from U.S. colleges, each with master’s degrees. This year, five athletes from Leader Kicking earned full scholarships to universities including Boston College and Rutgers.

For Matthew, who is currently exploring multiple college options in America, Leader Kicking offered more than just

“The coaching and guidance I received was life-changing. I improved my skills and gained the confidence to pursue my dreams. I strongly recommend any young lad give this a go. It opens up amazing opportunities.”

– Jack Scullion, Division 1 Scholar at Rutgers University

football skills—it brought a newfound confidence that permeates every area of his life. “If I had adversity in my life before, I’d shy away from it,” he admits. “Now, I feel confident—on the field and off.”

With a roster of over 1,000 aspiring future student-athletes representing all 32 Irish counties, Leader Kicking is poised to continue building athletic and educational ties between Ireland and the United States for years to come.



Partnership CEO Mary Sugrue with Leader Kicking founder, Tadhg Leader

Your Impact in 2023

In honoring our heritage, our members have life-changing impact.

The mission of the Irish American Partnership is to deepen the connection between the people of Ireland and America through targeted investment across the island, honoring our heritage by educating and empowering Ireland's youth. In the past three decades, supporters throughout the United States have raised more than \$57 million to support the island of Ireland. More than 650 schools, higher educational institutions, and community organizations have received funding.

Thank You

65,000+

Irish students, young people, and community leaders have benefited from Partnership funding.

\$57M+

Raised in support of the future of Ireland since 1986.

650+

Schools and community organizations have received your support.



Visiting Druid Theatre Company in Galway

\$3.7M

\$3,732,091 disbursed in support of the Partnership's mission.

\$2.1M

\$2,133,658 disbursed to benefit educational programs including direct grants to schools, university scholarships, STEAM initiatives, digital skills and job training, and integrated education.

\$790K

\$790,360 disbursed for community organizations and programs.

\$808K

\$808,073 disbursed for programs promoting Irish heritage and culture.

100%

Our 100% efficiency level means that every dollar goes directly to grassroots programs in Ireland.



To Make A Gift

Scan to support the Partnership's response to the many requests for funding from schools, universities and communities throughout Ireland.

Opening Doors for Ireland's Next Generation

Motivating students to achieve their full potential, the Greaney Family Bursary program transforms students' lives in Synergy Founder and CEO David Greaney's native Limerick.



Recipient of the Greaney Family Scholarship program with Principal Vivienne Hogan and David Greaney



David Greaney

When Partnership Board Member David Greaney left Limerick in February 1996, he felt well-prepared to take on the exciting challenges ahead in his new hometown of Boston. “I received a wonderful education in Ireland,” David said, first at Thomond Community College – then known as St. Nessan’s – and subsequently at University College Dublin. Now an established businessman, David has never forgotten the critical role of his early education at Thomond Community College in ensuring his future success.

Located in Moylish, a disadvantaged area of Limerick City, Thomond Community College serves low-income students and their families. With encouragement from dedicated staff and the wider school community, the hard-working students at Thomond have achieved great success in all areas, from sports and the arts to leadership and scientific research.

Eager to support this next generation of talented Thomond students, David said, “A great education opens up so many doors and provides opportunities that many people don’t have. I wanted to give back to this great school that gave me so much and recognize academic success and effort across all year groups.”

Therefore, in 2016, David worked with the Partnership to establish the Greaney Family Bursary program, which awards \$30,000 annually to support Thomond students. While many school awards focus on older students, the Greaney Family Bursary program recognizes the top five achievers in each year group, with bursaries ranging from €500 for 1st Year pupils to €2,000 for graduating students. The annual bursary awards incentivize all Thomond students to reach their full potential – and the impact on the school community has been transformative.



David Greaney with the 2024 class of scholarship recipients at Thomond Community College

As soon as the program was announced, the principal recalled students lining up to enter the library after school to complete their assignments. A tangible reward for academic excellence, the Greaney Family Bursary program has motivated all Thomond students to set and achieve higher goals, giving them a renewed sense of purpose and creating a culture of self-confidence and achievement within the school.

The bursaries have also had a genuinely life-changing impact on individual recipients and their families by alleviating financial hardships and encouraging students to pursue their dreams, both inside and outside of the classroom.

“I am incredibly passionate about music and play on a keyboard that I got for Christmas 6 years ago. I cannot afford lessons but still I work on it every day because I love it. I’ll pay for a new keyboard and put money towards college with this scholarship. I would’ve been waiting years to see money like this normally. I cannot thank you enough.”

- 6th Year Scholarship recipient

At this year’s awards ceremony, recipient Aimee Aherne, who is now in her 2nd year at the University of Limerick, described the impact of her award, saying “The Greaney Family

Scholarship has opened up many doors for me, and I look forward to a future in clinical psychology, thanks to the foundation it has helped provide.”

Having walked through the doors opened to him by his education at Thomond Community College, David is determined now to hold them open for the next generation. Reflecting on the success of the Greaney Family Bursary program so far, David said, “It is the most impactful giving that my family and I do, and it has been a privilege to see the impact that these awards have had over the past seven years.”

The Partnership is proud to support the continued success of the Greaney Family Bursary program and its tremendous impact on some of Ireland’s brightest students.



David Greaney with the 2018 Greaney Family Scholarship recipients at Thomond Community College



New York Speaker Series panelists: Vivienne Sayers O’Callaghan, Michaela O’Shaughnessy, Erika Fox, Jack McGarry

Young Partners

Engaging with our emerging generation of supporters, our Young Partners chapters provide professional networking opportunities and a connection to modern Ireland, while supporting the Partnership’s mission.

In October, we hosted our second annual Young Partners Speaker Series event in New York, one of six dedicated Young Partners events held annually in Boston and New York.

Joined at the University Club of New York by over 70 young professionals, our panelists Jack McGarry, Erika Fox, Michaela O’Shaughnessy, and Vivienne Sayers O’Callaghan had an engaging discussion on *Social Ireland: Representing an Authentic, Contemporary Ireland*, sharing candid takes on the opportunities and challenges that come with communicating “Irishness” through social media. The Partnership was delighted to make grants of \$5,000 each to schools and community initiatives meaningful to each of our panelists, in their honor.

“ We are very proud of Erika’s success, and grateful to the Irish American Partnership for making this grant in her honor. It will have a huge effect on our school community. ”

- Cian O’Connor, Principal, Glenbeigh National School

“I’m thrilled about the grant to my old secondary school,” said honoree Michaela O’Shaughnessy, social media lead at Instagram. “Several teachers who have been the most impactful and influential people in my life still work there, so I hope they will be proud when they hear!”

Welcoming all friends of Ireland, the Young Partners support our mission and meet throughout the year for a variety of

events, including our annual Speaker Series, social gatherings, and receive invitations to the full Partnership calendar of events. *To learn more about the Young Partners please email Grace@irishap.org.*



Young Partners Seamus McGrath, Derek Kelliher, and Liam Kelliher at the Boston Summer Social



US Special Envoy to Northern Ireland Joseph P. Kennedy III with Young Partner Meghan O’Toole at the annual Speaker Series in Boston



Building Bright Futures For Northern Ireland's Students

The Belfast Campus at Ulster University



Students at Queen's University Belfast

An attorney with deep ties to Northern Ireland, Partnership member Stephen McCabe recognizes the capacity of a university education to uplift individuals and communities.

Through both his own educational journey to law school in New Jersey and his time in Northern Ireland at the end of the Troubles, Stephen McCabe developed an enduring belief in the transformative power of higher education to improve individual lives and bring peace to societies in conflict.

However, Steve recognized that higher education is out of reach for many students in Northern Ireland, particularly those from underrepresented or economically disadvantaged backgrounds. In conjunction with the Partnership, Steve established the McCabe Family Endowment, which funds two annual scholarships for disadvantaged students from Northern Ireland to pursue a bachelor's degree at Queen's University Belfast or Ulster University.

As universities across Ireland implement access programs that offer comprehensive academic, financial, and social supports, the McCabe Family Endowment similarly enables talented students to take full advantage of all that a university education has to offer.

Without the added pressure of tuition fees, these students truly thrive in their studies, acquiring new skills, building connections with peers and mentors, and creating brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

The McCabe Family Endowment reflects Steve's long-standing commitment to ensuring that higher education is accessible for all. The Partnership is proud to support Steve in honoring his family's deep Irish roots in Counties Monaghan and Cork by creating this endowment.

His generosity today represents a long-term investment in Northern Ireland's future that will benefit students for years to come.



"I first visited Northern Ireland in the late 1990s, where I witnessed both the resentments of the past and a collective desire for a better future. My experiences in the North reinforced my belief that a university education can transform lives, and help transition communities away from violence. I established the Endowment to provide future generations with the educational opportunities that will help them ensure a lasting, equitable peace in Northern Ireland."

- Partnership member Stephen McCabe

There is nothing more central to the Partnership's mission than supporting young students. For more information about creating an endowment, please email Molly@irishap.org.



ATU students at the St. Angela's campus in Sligo

A Guiding Light

Atlantic Technological University (ATU) stands as a beacon of progress and opportunity in Ireland's west and northwest, where economic growth and social transformation are at the heart of its mission.



Dr. Orla Flynn, President of ATU.

Established in 2022, following the amalgamation of Galway-Mayo, Sligo, and Letterkenny Institutes of Technology, Atlantic Technological University has rapidly grown to be Ireland's largest university outside of Dublin, with over 26,600 students, 2,600 staff, and a curriculum spanning 600 programs. In November 2023, St. Angela's College joined ATU as its ninth campus, marking another milestone in the university's development.

With the challenges and opportunities of Ireland's northern and western coastal region, ATU represents a new phase of possibility.

As Dr. Orla Flynn, ATU's inaugural President, explains, "ATU is dedicated to shaping the future of the west and northwest, positioning our university as a hub of education, innovation, research, and economic uplift."

She continued, "By building skills and knowledge within our region, we aim to attract inward investment and drive sustainable growth. Through our presence across the region, we will help to develop the west and northwest by offering our students quality education that will lead to meaningful careers without having to leave the area, as so many had to over the decades."

This year ATU launched its strategic plan which describes five “guiding lights” that will shape the direction of the university over the next four years: Enabling Education, Engaged Research, a Connected Ecosystem, Organisation Transformation, and Sustainability for the Future. These Guiding Lights build on the University’s vision statement, mission and values, and are the themes which underpin the structure of the strategic plan.

Chair of the Governing Body of ATU, Maura McNally, SC added, “The five guiding lights illuminate our path toward becoming an internationally renowned university that enhances the quality of life in our region and creates a sustainable future for all.”

To meet the evolving needs of students and employers alike, ATU recently introduced new ambitious programs including veterinary medicine and pharmacy. These are a testament to the growing confidence in the young university.

ATU is also committed to supporting disadvantaged schools in the region through the Department of Education’s Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) program.

ATU’s Access and Widening Participation offices work closely with DEIS schools across Donegal, Sligo, Galway, and Mayo to provide mentoring and tailored educational projects.

For Irish American Partnership members, the journey of ATU is more than just a story of growth—it’s a testament to the transformative power of education and international collaboration.

“ Together, we are building a university that not only meets the needs of our region but also serves as a model for educational excellence, research impact, and global citizenship. ”

- Maura McNally SC, Chair of ATU’s Governing Body



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

“We are extremely grateful to the Irish American Partnership for their support, particularly of our efforts in the Access and Widening Participation area, improving outcomes and increasing opportunity for local students to attend third level education.”

- Dr. Orla Flynn, President, Atlantic Technological University



Partnership visit to the ATU Castlebar campus in County Mayo during the 2024 Leadership Mission

IMPACT ON THE GROUND

The 2024 Leadership Mission evaluated Partnership programs, including schools, universities, and community development organizations in counties Galway and Mayo over three days. It was a chance to meet the people benefiting directly from Partnership investment and to gain insight into the grassroots efficacy of our work.

The Partnership was honored to distribute \$600,000 in grants during this trip, bringing the year-to-date funding for Ireland to \$2.5 million.

Join Us In 2025

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| JANUARY 8 | Nollaig na mBan Women's Leadership Breakfast - Washington D.C. |
| JANUARY 10 | Nollaig na mBan Women's Leadership Breakfast - Chicago |
| JANUARY 22 | Nollaig na mBan Women's Leadership Breakfast - Boston Harbor Hotel |
| MARCH 14 | St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Celebration - Union League Club of Chicago |
| MARCH 17 | St. Patrick's Day Breakfast Celebration - Intercontinental Hotel Boston |
| APRIL 24 | Business Leaders Breakfast - Union League Club of New York |
| MAY 6 | Young Partners Summer Social - New York |
| JUNE 10 | Albany Golf Tournament - Schuyler Meadows Golf Club |
| JUNE 11 | Young Partners Summer Social - Boston |
| JUNE 16 | Newport Golf Invitational - Newport Country Club |
| SEPT TBD | Chicago Golf Tournament - Beverly Country Club |
| SEPT 14-17 | Irish Invitational Golf Tournament - Royal Portrush, Royal County Down, Ardglass |
| OCT 1 | Young Partners Speaker Series - New York |
| OCT 8 | Young Partners Speaker Series - Boston |
| DEC 2 | Young Partners Holiday Social - New York |
| DEC 10 | Young Partners Holiday Social - Boston |

WWW.IRISHAP.ORG/EVENTS

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GIVE BACK
CHANGE LIVES
Donate securely here



Invest in Ireland's Future

Thank you for being a part of the Irish American Partnership community. Our work would not be possible without the dedication of friends like you.

Honor your heritage in a way that works best for you. We encourage you to select a school or organization that is meaningful to you and your family. Your gift makes you a partner in their success. Whether a one-time transformative gift, a recurring gift, or a deferred gift, your generosity has life-changing impact at the grassroots level in Ireland.

Ask us about **the Irish Legacy Society**, a special community of forward-thinking supporters who have invested in the future of the Partnership's transformative mission through a planned gift or provision in their estate plans. Create a lasting legacy for Ireland with a gift that will benefit generations to come.