

The WASHINGTON-IRELAND PROGRAM

FOSTERING EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTED TO PEACE
AND PROSPERITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRELAND

For more than two decades, the Washington-Ireland Program (WIP) has engaged emerging student leaders from across the island of Ireland in a visionary leadership-building program. WIP is committed to overcoming divisions of the past and empowering present and future leaders with skills and insights to build a shared future of peace and prosperity for Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Washington Ireland
Program—the class
of 2014



THE IRELAND FUNDS have been a long-standing supporter of WIP, a model for post-conflict development that helps young people collaborate to address underlying issues in Northern Ireland. Bryan Patten, WIP's Executive Director explains, "The support of The Ireland Funds has enabled WIP to bring together emerging leaders from all communities to reflect on the future they want for Northern Ireland, and to give them the skills to make it happen."

Each year, WIP selects a diverse group of 30 emerging leaders to join our community. Ensuring the diversity of program participants—geographically, socioeconomically and otherwise—is a priority; at least one-third of participants come from disadvantaged backgrounds and receive full scholarships.

The year-long program of personal and professional development brings outstanding college students from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to Washington, DC for summer work placements and leadership training. Through an intense eight-week schedule in Washington DC, WIP participants are formed into a team and challenged to develop their vision for the future of post-conflict Northern Ireland and Ireland.

A model for post-conflict development, WIP's well-respected program of leadership training and service has successfully developed a diverse alumni group of 550. WIP's alumni are practiced and accomplished ambassadors with varying viewpoints, but they have a shared commitment to move beyond their differences to resolve the pressing issues that will define the island of Ireland in the 21st Century.

WIP's alumni are now emerging in leadership roles, in positions that cut across a wide range of sectors, including public service, law, business, communications and media, education, technology, the arts and nonprofits. Many members of the WIP community are actively participating in the current Northern Ireland peace talks and other related initiatives.



EMMA Pengelly graduated from WIP in 2002 and is now the Special Advisor to the First Minister of Northern Ireland, Peter Robinson MLA. Recalling the impact of WIP on her career Emma notes that,

"The Washington Ireland Program really opened my mind and eyes to the opportunities that people can take to actually make a difference, not just as an elected representative but in all the different roles on Capitol Hill or in DC, all contributing to trying to make peoples' lives better."

CHRIS Johnston was a student on the WIP Class of 2001 and is now a business leader in Belfast. Chris is the founder of the fast growing tech start-up, Adoreboard.com, which measures how people feel about brands online. He is part of a new start-up scene in Belfast, bringing new jobs to Northern Ireland.

"WIP challenges you in so many ways and provides an opportunity to be inspired. The idea of servant leadership is a core value of WIP. It is about allowing people to remove barriers that stand in their way to achieve their greatness in their particular field."

HAVING INVESTED IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR 20 YEARS, WIP CONTINUES TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRELAND BY:

- *Developing and supporting a community of leaders and influential supporters from diverse backgrounds who are committed to a peaceful, prosperous and shared future for Northern Ireland and Ireland.*
- *Creating opportunities for new thinking to address substantive long-term issues through thoughtful, reasoned negotiation and respectful dialogue.*
- *Supporting individuals and communities to take new action to find practical and principled solutions to challenges facing the island today.*

