

OVERCOMING PAST DIVISIONS

For over 20 years, the Washington Ireland Program (WIP) has brought college students with the ambition and potential to shape Northern Ireland and Ireland to Washington, DC. The most coveted student development program on the knowledged as a transformative personal experience

past divisions by creating

press and galvanise their

alumni

distinguished

Consistent with its efforts to overcome an opportunity for future leaders to exideals in a truly collaborative ethos, WIP's community reflects the program's commitment to diversity. Representative of all backgrounds and traditions on the island, year to year the program's participants are generously sponsored, and over 40% qualify for full scholarship support.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SUMMER OF CHALLENGES

Every summer WIP students are given the opportunity to be immersed in extraordinary professional environments in Washington, DC. Working in Capitol Hill, and in leading think tanks and non-profits, they experience the American political system first hand. They are also hosted by local families, dedicated members of the WIP community who are sensitive to the realities of contemporary Ireland, and in whose homes the students gain a deep appreciation for US values.

Additionally, through the summer, students complete a challenging leadership curriculum that is focused on the development of their own vision; on their attaining a sensitive and rigorous understanding of what it will mean to follow the path of leadership; and on listening to the differing views of their peers. Through this crucible experience, having to present their own views and having them

robustly discussed by their fellow class members, deep insights are achieved and lasting bonds are created. WIP has become synonymous with the forging of friendships across differing political perspectives, across community boundaries, and with the emergence of a new all island network of leaders. WIP alumni, always prominent in their chosen fields, have delivered on their early promise, and now hold important positions across all political parties in Northern Ireland and Ireland. They include, Leo Varadkar (WIP Class of 2010), the youngest Taoiseach in Ireland's history, and Claire Sugden (WIP Class of 2010), who was appointed at the age of 29 as Northern Ireland's Minister for Justice and Emma Little-Pengelly (WIP Class of 2002), who became the first WIP Alumna elected to Westminster.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES.

NEXT STOP: NEW YORK

WIP was founded at a time when the need to address painful social and political division was a matter of daily urgency. This remains a core priority, but those who aspire to lead our island need new skills to face the challenges ahead - to build opportunity as well as peace in an uncertain and unstable world. With the support of The Ireland Funds, WIP is changing to make sure the future leaders of

Northern Ireland and Ireland are equipped to take on the challenges of the next 20 years.

students in New York. Our plan is to enable Ireland's brightest talents to learn from leading figures in business and the arts, building the creative skills and competitive spirit to drive the next stage of our island's development. By 2018, with the support of The Ireland Funds, WIP will be engaging students to learn from the best in the arts, business and public policy in both Washington and New York.

Starting in 2017 with a week long fo-

rum, WIP will begin embedding exceptional



"WASHINGTON IRELAND PROGRAM SHOWED ME THAT BY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, WE CAN

MOVE ON FROM THE ANIMOSITIES OF THE PAST AND DRIVE ON AS THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW."

— Claire Sugden MLA—WIP graduate, appointed Minister for Justice in Northern Ireland

SUPPORT FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS FLAGSHIP GRANT HAS ENABLED:

67 ASPIRING LEADERS OVER 2 YEARS, SELECTED FROM OVER 800 APPLICATIONS

STUDENTS HAILING FROM 21 COUNTIES ON THE ISLAND, FROM ANTRIM TO WATER DRD, REPRESENTING ALL COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND

PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES





DELIVERY OF OVER 6000 VOLUNTEER HOURS

WITH WIP COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHEN THEY RETURN TO IRELAND / NORTHERN IRELAND

WHAT HAVE GRADUATES OF THE WASHINGTON IRELAND PROGRAM GONE ON TO ACCOMPLISH?

LEO VARADKAR

AGE 38, AN TADISEACH OF IRELAND

"I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THAT SEVENTEEN YEARS AFTER MY INTERNSHIP I WOULD BE ELECTED THE PRIME MINISTER OF MY COUNTRY. YOU HELPED MAKE THAT POSSIBLE."

— Leo Varadkar, speaking of The Washington Ireland Program at The Ireland Funds Conference in 2017



MARTIN REILLY

AGE 35

MAYOR OF DERRY-LONDONDERRY

SHARON HAUGHEY

AGE 31

LORD MAYOR OF ARMAGH

NUALA MCALLISTER

AGE 28

LORD MAYOR OF BELFAST

FINTAN PHELAN

AGE 25

MAYOR OF CARLOW

SENIOR POLICY

ADVISORS IN ALL

MAJOR POLITICAL

PARTIES ON THE

ISLAND

AWARD-WINNING
LEADERS ACROSS
BUSINESS,
THE MEDIA
AND THE ARTS