The Irish Institute is a division of the Center for Irish Programs at Boston College. The mission of the Institute is to promote the peace and normalization process on the island of Ireland and to contribute to social, political, and economic stability through cross-border and cross-community cooperation. Professional development programming by the Institute introduces Irish and Northern Irish participants to successful models of best practices in the U.S., as well as offering an opportunity for cultural exchange that promotes mutual understanding among the U.S., Ireland, and Northern Ireland. Since its founding in 1997, more than 1,000 decision-makers from all sectors, including government, business, education, environment, policing, media, and nonprofits, have participated in over 100 Irish Institute programs. Programs balance classroom seminars led by Boston College faculty with site visits to innovative and effective industry leaders in Massachusetts and across the United States. The Irish Institute is regarded as an honest broker by all parties on the island of Ireland, and its reputation for delivering quality programming in an inclusive environment attracts leaders from all communities and from across the political spectrum.

The Irish Institute's 2011-2012 programming will address, among other issues: community development, executive leadership, innovation in secondary and postgraduate education, political reasoning and action, technology and government, the rural economy, women in the workplace, and youth entrepreneurship.

The Institute receives annual funding from Boston College, the U.S. Congress through the U.S. Department of State, the Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs, as well as through external business partnerships.

**Irish Institute Programs:**

- Feature seminars with experts and university faculty in addition to site visits with industry and sector leaders

- Demonstrate a commitment to relationship-building across organizations, sectors, communities and borders

- Focus on creating and maintaining personal and professional links between Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States

**2011-2012 Programming Initiatives:**

- Innovation in Third-Level Academic Administration
- Developing & Supporting Young Business Leaders
- Education Policy for the 21st Century
- Promoting Rural Economic Development
- Alternatives to Political Violence
- Women in the Workplace
- E-Governance
- Executive Leadership
- Global Management Strategy