



Economic Development

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## Targeted trade mission brings Ireland executive to Mesa as part of new international partnership

City of Mesa officials will host a top Ireland executive group tomorrow as part of a targeted trade mission developed through a recent international partnership agreement. Brian Garvan, executive director of Atlantic Corridor Ireland, will make the first of two company visits to Mesa this month to meet with the City's economic development staff and tour Falcon Field Airport, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and the surrounding Gateway Area.

Atlantic Corridor CEO Jackie Gorman, who will sit down with Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, will follow Garvan's visit on June 21 with a second trip to Mesa.

In the last 20 years, Ireland has seen a dramatic transformation in its business, education and economy. The country's position, amongst the wealthiest countries in the world, is evidence of significant business performance and entrepreneurship. Atlantic Corridor was founded in 1999 to provide global and cross-border links to accelerate development in the Midlands region through the company's network of partnerships.

In addition, the organization focuses on individuals, businesses and the education sector to create awareness and stimulate interest in international trade, education cooperation and cross-border cooperation. Atlantic Corridor offers special initiatives, pro-active support, exchanges, micro-trade missions, coaching and mentoring to support international and regional business and education development.

"Atlantic Corridor recently facilitated a link between Athlone Institute of Technology and Mesa Community College for student and faculty exchanges," said Bill Jabjiniak, Mesa's economic development director. "The organization provides a unique network of international links. This partnership should continue to develop a number of valuable opportunities for both Atlantic Corridor and the City of Mesa. The vitality of our airports in particular has put Mesa on the map internationally."

In the United States, Atlantic Corridor has a particular interest in developing links and best practices in education, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, financial services, software and tourism. The organization's partnership with the City of Mesa is its first in the Western United States.

"We expect the partnership will spark new international investment opportunities for the City," said Mike Paredes, an economic development project manager for the City of Mesa.