

**Ted Medhin - Fw: Galway Sister City**

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**From:** "John Gleeson" <gleeson@uwm.edu>  
**To:** <tmedhi@ci.mil.wi.us>  
**Date:** 11/21/2001 1:34 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Galway Sister City  
**CC:** "John V Gleeson" <gleeson@csd.uwm.edu>

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Ted,

here is the email I forwarded to the Alderman. Let me know if you need more information, I can provide more if you need it.

John

----- Original Message -----

**From:** John Gleeson  
**To:** [mmurph@ci.mil.wi.us](mailto:mmurph@ci.mil.wi.us)  
**Cc:** John V Gleeson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 14, 2001 3:13 PM  
**Subject:** Galway Sister City

Michael a chara,

Here are some points that may help with the motion.

As Co-Director of the UWM Center for Celtic Studies, I whole-heartedly support the establishment of a Sister City relationship with Galway. We are in the process of establishing an exchange agreement with the University in Galway (UCG) that will involve our College of Letters & Science and the School of Business. The Chancellor, Nancy Zimpher, is leading a UWM Cultural Mission to Ireland in March, and Galway is a focus area. She will be signing agreements with the President of UCG. She will be discussing a number of initiatives involving links with university departments, companies, faculty and students. These links can be used to:

- stimulate technology exchange between companies located in incubators
- encourage such companies to create overseas subsidiaries
- facilitate reciprocal promotion of incubators
- arrange for interchange of co-operative students between universities
- exchange information and experiences in the area of small business promotion

Ireland is about one half the size of Wisconsin with approximately the same population. It is undergoing rapid changes in its economy. For example, 45 percent of all US computer related investment in Europe is in Ireland, a country that was best known for its dairy farming just fifty years ago. Similarly to Wisconsin, now, other major sources of employment are biotech, IT, and tourism industries. Galway is a center of this change, and we can learn from each other.

In the 1990's, with the help of the European Union, Ireland launched an enormous education development program. This helps account for the boom in the economy. Successful initiatives included: Third level technology education and training centers for jobless adults; access for Irish students, teachers and institutions to a host of trans-national projects and initiatives; and initiatives geared to meet the growing concern for the future of the disadvantaged such as the "Breaking the Cycle" program, which targets schools in disadvantaged urban areas. Our city can learn from these.

The 1860 Milwaukee Census showed a disproportionate number of Irish immigrants were from Galway. Indeed, Galway's people have been coming here since the early 1840's. Galway is a major center for Celtic Studies, and we look forward to a long and fruitful engagement with the city and its people.

Galway is renowned as an artistic center, and offers numerous opportunities for cultural exchanges with our own vibrant arts community.

I haven't mentioned the Irish Fest connection, which I presume Jane will provide you with. Let me know if there's anything else I can do, and please email me the date and time of the meeting.

Slán go foill,

John