

# Allstate Northern Ireland News Release

Published:11.02.2010

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## Open Days February 2010 - Belfast & Londonderry

Allstate Northern Ireland currently has over 30 IT positions available in our Belfast and Derry locations. If you would like to work for a company that was voted "Best Place to Work" by the Irish News 2009 and has received a multitude of awards for its work-life balance policies come along to the following Open Days.

### Open Days

Belfast - 9 Lanyon Place -opposite BT and the Waterfront Hall Tuesday 23rd February 3pm - 7pm  
Derry - Springtown Business Park, Office 2, Northland Road Wednesday 24th February 3pm-7pm

We are particularly interested in the following:

- Java developers
- M/F developers
- Testers
- Informatica developers
- Tibco developers
- .Net developers
- Process Analysts
- Project Managers
- SAP Test Analysts
- Voice Engineers
- Network Engineers
- Windows Engineers
- UNIX System Administrators
- Mainframe Systems Programmers (different to application programmers)
- Mainframe Operations Engineers
- Firewalls & Anti Virus Engineers

# Allstate Northern Ireland News Release

Published: 17.03.2010

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## Allstate exec touts N. Ireland as business gold mine

Article Ref the Chicago Sun-Times 17/03/2010

<http://www.suntimes.com/business/2106766,CST-NWS-nireland17web.article>

# Allstate Northern Ireland News Release

Published: 16.04.2010

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## Allstate Northern Ireland Launches First Viral Recruitment Advert

[Click here](#) to view viral advert on YouTube.

Allstate Northern Ireland has won many awards for its work life balance ethos and it was decided that this was the hook on which we would produce our first viral advert campaign. The advert was produced by our graphic design agency Whitenoise and Paul the main character is an actor. All other contributors to the advert are real life Allstate Northern Ireland employees who take part regularly in the sport or activity portrayed in the advert and, as said at the end of the advert no IT Professionals or animals were hurt in the making of this commercial.

Allstate Northern Ireland has currently over 300 job opportunities to fill for experienced IT professionals, IT graduates and non-IT graduates.

For further information on the jobs available [click here](#).

For further information on our work life balance activities [click here](#).

Combine your passion with getting the job done at Allstate Northern Ireland.

# Allstate Northern Ireland News Release

Published: 03.06.2010

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## Allstate NI Employees teach Silver Surfers

E-mail, how to keep in contact with family abroad, how to book cheap flights, save time on shopping, find a computer course and bank safely were some of the items covered during Silver Surfers Day on Friday 21st May. 15 volunteers from Allstate Northern Ireland took part in this event led by Business in the Community.

Silver Surfers' Day is a national day set aside to focus on helping the over 50s to have a taste of what the Internet offers and to help them gain the essential ICT skills to get started.

Current statistics show that 91% of seniors over 65 years of age (and 64% of those aged between 50 and 64) have never used the Internet nor have the skills to do so. Considering how the Internet is becoming a fundamental tool in everyday life for shopping, booking travel and holidays, finding information and accessing government services, there is a need to ensure that the older person is not disadvantaged and excluded. Business in the Community (BITC) has been helping drive a campaign focused on improving Digital Inclusion for everyone.

Allstate Northern Ireland employees were based in the following libraries across Northern Ireland:

Falls Library, Brownlow Library, Colin Glen Library, Downpatrick Library, Glengormley Library, Greystone Library, Ormeau Library, Tullycarnet Library, Derry Central Library, Shantallow Library and Omagh Library

This is part of Allstate Northern Ireland's commitment to support the local community, employees were keen to help with this initiative and show how their skills can be used in a different context.



## Silver Success for Allstate Strabane

The Strabane office at Orchard Road Industrial Estate satisfied 129 out of a maximum 196 evidence requirements for Investors In People Silver Status which is an outstanding result for their first time around. Very few companies exceed the standard on their first assessment and this is great testimony to the hard work and dedication of the management and staff in Strabane who have transformed the business in the past 2-3 years resulting in exponential growth and business diversification.

John Mullholland, liP Assessor commented: "The assessment in Strabane clearly demonstrates that sound people management practices leads to business success . Five years in operation and look at what has been achieved. I was impressed by the 'In my good hands training' - the new performance management system, the new leadership team but most of all by the staff and their commitment to doing their jobs better. There is no doubt that if people have the willingness and drive to progress within Allstate the sky is the limit (volcanic ash permitting)!"

Bro McFerran, Managing Director thanked all employees by saying, "Well done to everyone! This is a great achievement which we can all be very proud of as it places us amongst the worlds leading employers. Much thanks and credit is due to all those who took part in interviews and helped organise or support the assessment. To celebrate our success all those involved will be invited to attend a recognition event and a donut day will be held in Strabane to mark the achievement."

For further information on Investors in People visit: <http://www.investorsinpeople.co.uk/>



Pictured from left to right Karen Neill (HR), Rose McCaul (Finance), Tom Hamilton (Area Leader), Bill Gordon (liP Unit), Melissa Whyte (HR) & Bro McFerran (MD).



## Allstate NI's Talent recognised at Irish News Awards

Allstate Northern Ireland was among the high-profile organisations which scooped the gongs at the Irish News Workplace & Employment Awards in Belfast last night. For the 3rd year in a row Allstate Northern Ireland received the Managing Talent Award in the Large Organisation Category.



A capacity crowd packed into the Ramada Hotel for the gala black-tie dinner, at which Department of Employment & Learning Minister Sir Reg Empey congratulated all the winners for their success in placing a firm emphasis on individuals and their positive contribution to the Northern Ireland workplace.

The prestigious event, hosted by award-winning BBC journalist Karen Patterson, saw 17 main awards being presented alongside 14 commendations. Sarah Newman - RTE's Dragon's Den - provided a unique insight into what makes a successful entrepreneur and what it's like inside the Dragon's Den.

Speaking at the awards, the Minister welcomed the initiative, which aims to promote and reward our key resource - people. He said: "These awards recognise excellence in the workplace and reinforce the message that our people are our most important asset. It's great to see that more and more businesses and organisations are recognising this and the need to upskill their existing workforce so that they can make the most of new opportunities. Unfortunately we live in times of economic uncertainty but as research has shown, companies that invest in the skills of their staff are two and a half times more likely to survive. The aims of The Irish News Workplace and Employment Awards go hand in hand with much of skills work being taken forward through my department."

Allstate Northern Ireland' Talent Management Strategy focuses on a strong sense of leadership. This reinforces culture and instills values, to create a workplace environment where staff are managed in a consistent and measurable way, ensuring everyone is aligned, held accountable and paid fairly. The strategy also identifies high performers as successors to key positions throughout the organization to make sure the company has a highly flexible, responsive workforce. In real terms the Allstate NI Talent Management Programme evolves year on year and remains integrated with the business in a real-time fashion.

For additional information and photographs on the awards visit [www.irishnews.com/wea](http://www.irishnews.com/wea).





# Allstate Northern Ireland News Release

Published: 24.06.2010

## Sustrans visits Allstate Northern Ireland

Sustrans are the sustainable transport charity promoting cycling to work, with maps of the National Cycle Network, high visibility jackets, bells and puncture repair kits on sale, as well as advice on cycling.

Right now in the UK two out of five local journeys are made by foot, bike and public transport. Help us increase this to four out of five by joining in our Change Your World campaign right now at <http://www.changeyourworld.org.uk/>.

Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, working on practical projects so people can choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. The charity is behind the award winning National Cycle Network, Connect2, Safe Routes to Schools, Bike It, Travel Smart, Active Travel and Liveable Neighbourhoods, all projects that are changing our world one mile at a time. To find out more visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk).



Caption for photo - Ryan McGlinchey, Kenneth Finnerty, Allstate NI employees with Patricia Wallace from Sustrans.

## Employees volunteer for Environment Day

Employees volunteered at 2 locations as part of Environment Day organized by Business in the Community - Colin Glen Forest Park in Belfast and the Playtrail in Derry.

At Colin Glen Forest Park, employees were tasked with weeding, planting wild flowers and cleaning up the river whilst in Derry employees carried out maintenance work on recreation facilities at Playtrail, including grass trimming, staining wood swings, poles & fences, and general restoration of the outdoor equipment. The work also involved clearing ground to make space for wheelchair users. This provided Allstate's employees with a change to their working environment for the day and was a great team building activity.

Allstate Northern Ireland's Helping Hands Programme encourages employees to volunteer for activities throughout the year to give something back to the local community as well as giving the employees a sense of achievement. It also gives employees an opportunity to work with colleagues from right across the organization who they may never have met before, helping to develop a stronger and more inclusive company.



Pictured employees at Colin Glen Forest Park, Belfast.



## UU awards Bro McFerran the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science for services to economic development

Bro McFerran was delighted to receive an Honorary Degree of Science for services to economic development at a Graduation Ceremony on 8th June at the Riverside Theatre, Coleraine. Actor, Jimmy Nesbitt presented Bro with his award, having being installed earlier in the proceeding as the UU's new Chancellor.



Bro has been the Managing Director of Allstate Northern Ireland since its incorporation in 1999. Allstate NI is now the largest IT Company in Northern Ireland, employing more than 1900 people across 3 locations - Belfast, Londonderry and Strabane.



## X the TXT - Don't Text and Drive Campaign Launches in Northern Ireland

This campaign was started in the US by Allstate Northern Ireland's parent company, one of the largest car insurers in America because of the increasing numbers of collisions due to people texting while driving. This is also becoming a wider issue in Northern Ireland so it was decided to launch the campaign in schools locally as part of Allstate's Community Responsibility programme.

According to Rose Kelly, Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer of Allstate Northern Ireland, 'the key objective of the campaign is to inform and educate students approaching driving age that text messaging is a significant distraction to the serious business of driving with potentially fatal consequences'. Our aim is to deliver a series of awareness events in local schools for year 13 and 14 students which will promote awareness of the dangers of text messaging while driving particularly amongst younger and inexperienced drivers'.

Ronnie Tosh, Manager of the DOE Road Safety Education Officer Service in Northern Ireland expressed his gratitude to Allstate for their campaign which will go a long way to assist the Department in educating young drivers and influencing attitudes and behaviours towards road safety.

Mr Tosh explained, "Educating the public and influencing attitudes and behaviours towards road safety is vital and the first step towards achieving this is to instil good road user attitudes and behaviours in young people. What is learnt and put into practice at an early age forms the basis of adult behaviour. Through working in partnership with organisations such as Allstate, initiatives like this will contribute to a reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads each year".

Head of Road Policing, Superintendent Muir Clark said: "Using a mobile phone while driving is not just an offence, it can lead to a lapse of concentration that can and has resulted in people being killed in crashes on roads in Northern Ireland this year.

"Drivers must exercise proper control of their vehicle at all times. Never use a handheld mobile phone when driving. Using hands free equipment is also likely to distract your attention from the road. It is far safer not to use any telephone while you are driving. No phone call is worth losing your own or some innocent person's life. If it's a vitally important call, find a safe place to stop first.

"We welcome the fact that less people are being detected for the offence, and would remind drivers not to use mobile phones when driving, to always wear their seatbelt, drive within the speed limit and to never, ever, drive after drinking or taking drugs. Do any of these things and at best you'll be caught, put before the courts, fined or even banned from driving. The worst doesn't bear think about."

Students taking part in the event are asked to support the campaign by stamping their thumbprint on a banner which will remain at the school as a constant reminder of not to text and drive, they also receive a pair of thumb bands that read "TXTING KILLS" to wear as a daily reminder when texting.

Research conducted on Facebook by the RAC Foundation in 2008, polled 3000 drivers and found that 48% of 18-24 year olds admitted to texting while driving. Early research by the Transport Research Laboratory for the RAC Foundation found average reaction times slowed by 35% when 17-24 years olds drove in a simulator while writing or reading texts. The texters were found to drift out of lanes more, had poorer steering control and were less able to maintain a constant distance behind a lead vehicle.

Legislation to address the use of mobile phones was introduced in Northern Ireland on 27 June 2007 and the PSNI have reported that they issued 17,857 endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices from 31 July 2007 to 31st December 2008. Using a mobile phone whilst driving is still obviously an ongoing problem on our roads and it is hoped this new campaign will raise awareness amongst young people as well as the wider Northern Ireland community.

You can show your support for the X the TXT - Don't Text and Drive campaign by becoming a fan on the X the TXT Facebook site - [www.facebook.com/XtheTXTNI](http://www.facebook.com/XtheTXTNI) or for further information contact Sonya Kerr, X the TXT Campaign Leader, Allstate Northern Ireland on 028 9034 7250 or e-mail [Sonya.Kerr@allstate.com](mailto:Sonya.Kerr@allstate.com).

Show your support of our campaign and become our fan on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/XtheTXTNI](http://www.facebook.com/XtheTXTNI)





# Allstate Northern Ireland News Release

Published: 06.10.2010

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## Recruitment Open Days November 2010

We currently have vacancies for experienced IT Software Professionals in a range of technology fields including mobile technology, social media technology, Project Management, Architecture and Software Testing.

For further information come along to our Recruitment Open Days and speak to our staff to explore the opportunities available. Please bring along a full CV which can be submitted for short-listing for any available opportunities.

- **Belfast**

9 Lanyon Place  
opposite BT and the Waterfront Hall  
Thursday 18th November 2010  
3-7pm

- **Londonderry**

Springtown Business Park,  
Office 2, Northland Road  
Friday 19th November 2010  
3-7pm

For all available opportunities [click here](#).



## Allstate NI received Platinum Environmental Award

The Survey, carried out by ARENA Network and sponsored by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Belfast Harbour, annually assesses top businesses in Northern Ireland for environmental management, performance and assurance.

Environment Minister Edwin Poots, who gave the keynote address, said: "I congratulate all those businesses and organisations who have chosen to participate in this year's Survey. It is now firmly established that businesses who keep environmental issues on their agenda will see this translate into their economic bottom line."

The Minister continued: "The results show that more organisations have chosen to publicise their environmental performance with external stakeholders with 49% of participants reporting externally compared to 37% last year. This is an important step in raising the credibility of their environmental reporting.

"ARENA Network continues to review the Survey ensuring it keeps up to date with changes in business circumstances while remaining challenging for organisations. The planned Survey review in 2011 is a welcome step to maintain focus and will help keep the Survey relevant in the future."

Peter Dixon, Chair, ARENA Network explains: "This year, participation has once again increased. We had 143 organisations from 15 different sectors involved, reaching an average score is 72%, the highest since the Survey began. Impressively 19 organisations achieved platinum status, scoring 90% or more in the Survey and for the first time ever, there are no organisations in the lowest quintile."

"The resolution of companies in Northern Ireland to remain committed to making a positive impact on the environment is encouraging despite the economic challenges at present, and those which are to come."

The top results (in order of scoring) were achieved by: Michelin Tyre plc, Henry Brothers (Magherafelt) Ltd, Bombardier Aerospace, IKEA Belfast, John Graham (Dromore) Ltd, Kilwaughter Chemical Company Ltd, McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd, The Henderson Group, Dale Farm, Seagate Technology (Ireland) Ltd, NIE plc, Larne Borough Council, Western Education & Library Board, Farrans Group Limited, Moy Park Ltd, Patton Group, Translink, Allstate Northern Ireland and Belfast Harbour.



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## Closer Links Between Colleges and Business Will Aid NI Economy

How Northern Ireland colleges can help local businesses and what services they provide was the subject of a Committee breakfast meeting, which took place at Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, 6 October.

MLA Dolores Kelly, Chair of the Employment and Learning Committee, has put the full authority of her Committee behind this important initiative. She said: "In the current climate, and the probable cuts to the Executive budget, we need to be much more focused on making the most of public investment. We cannot afford to have a workforce that is not highly skilled, highly motivated and highly employable, with well developed transferable skills."

"I believe that our colleges have a key role to play. Not only are they instrumental in providing targeted training, they are working to equip our young people with skills needed to succeed in new sectors, such as renewable energy."

Encouraging greater links between the colleges and business sector is not the only way that the Committee is working to improve the local economy. The Committee has also taken a strong interest in those not in education, employment or training, the so-called NEETs. The Committee has recently completed an Inquiry into this issue, working closely with stakeholders and the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). It is expected that many of the recommendations in the forthcoming report will be implemented by the Department of Employment and Learning.

Mrs Kelly is in no doubt of the importance of this twin track approach. She said: "Some 80% of the current workforce will still be in employment in 2020. Yet, many of these workers lack even basic skills in numeracy, literacy and ICT. Given that too many of our young people are also leaving school without these essential skills and without some basic job skills it is also vital that we continue to focus on these areas."

MLA Jonathan Bell, Deputy Chair of the Committee added: "Another crucial part of this important equation is support for local companies. Our local colleges are already playing a vital role by providing a wide range of professional, vocational, technical courses and pioneering new opportunities in emerging markets. One exciting programme is the Carbon Zero NI initiative where colleges are delivering training for businesses that are developing 'green' services, such as solar or wind energy generation."

"There is no room for complacency: we can all do more. It requires strategic support from politicians and businesses as well as all those interested in improving our economy and society. Both the Chair of the Committee for Employment and Learning and I are committed to achieving these goals."