

**Brief Notes for Update for NI
for CPHC AGM on 16th April 2026
& CPHC Committee Meeting on 20th May 2026**

The AI Bubble

Following on from the success of our joint AICC Technology and Skills Advisory Board (TSAB) / Computing Employer Advisory Board (CEAB) engagement in September 2025 (report from which I shared previously) along with our having had a preliminary 'Red Team' discussion on the AI Bubble at our last quarterly TSAB meeting which took place on Monday 26th January - we will be running another joint engagement week beginning the 25th May 2026 on the 'AI Bubble and the impact on both the NI economy and the continued uptake of AI by SMEs and FDI companies if / when it bursts'. Happy to share the report with the committee post the engagement.

Responsible AI Talk and CAGE Tool scenario walkthrough at Belfast Grammar School RBAI

AICC Team of Tadhg Hickey, Geraldine Doherty and myself presented a Responsible AI Talk and undertook an interactive CAGE Tool scenario walkthrough with A-Level Computing and A-Level Digital Technology students at Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI) which they found very insightful and made them much more aware of the different aspects of and the real need for Responsible AI.



AICC Learning Lab Launched <https://www.aicc.co/ai-learning-lab>

Northern Ireland is at a critical tipping point in its adoption of artificial intelligence, as a new AI Learning Lab launches to help close a growing skills gap that experts warn could leave the region trailing other parts of the UK. The Learning Lab is led by Geraldine Doherty who is the Professional Training and Academic Coordinator at AICC. Geraldine coordinates AICC scholarships and short courses to support professional training and plays a central role in helping students and professionals navigate their AI learning journey.

The AI Learning Lab offers free, flexible online courses designed to help learners understand, evaluate and apply artificial intelligence in real-world contexts, with an initial suite including Fundamentals of AI, Prompt to Prototype and Data Readiness for AI.



Women in STEM Hackathon

This hackathon which took place on Saturday 11th of April was co-organised by: Women in STEM Society at UU Belfast Campus, Women in STEM Society at UU Derry/Londonderry (DLD) Campus, Women in STEM Society at QUB, and BCS Northern Ireland. As part of BCS-NI Committee we secured sponsorship from Allstate NI as the headline sponsor to host the hackathon entitled 'Break the Pattern'.

Women continue to face repeated patterns across education, hiring, career progression, and workplace culture. At the 'Break the Pattern' hackathon, participants worked in 8 teams of between 3 to 5 people to identify these patterns and design creative, technology-driven solutions that help build a more inclusive future for STEM.

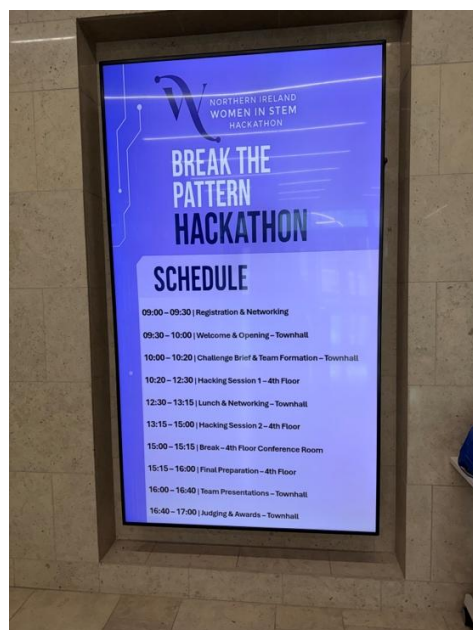
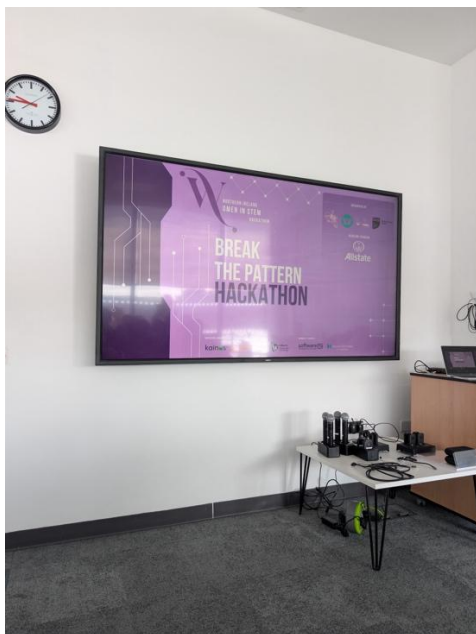
The hackathon was an opportunity for participants to:

- Tackle real-world challenges affecting women in STEM
- Collaborate with like-minded students from diverse disciplines
- Learn from industry mentors and gain insight into tech careers
- Build practical solutions with real social impact
- Grow their skills in problem-solving, innovation, and teamwork

Headline Sponsor and Hackathon Venue Host: Allstate NI

Prize Sponsors: Allstate NI, Kainos, Pytilia, Data Intellect, Liberty IT

Community Partners: Women Techmakers Belfast, Software NI



As EDI and ESG Lead for BCS NI Committee apart from being one of the organisers, I was also one of the judges on the day. Some very innovative ideas were pitched and pleased to say some of the teams are keen to progress these as entries to Catalyst’s annual Student INVENT Awards Competition.

