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**WESTERN NEW YORK REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**

Public is invited to five workshops across the region intended to gain input for economic development strategy

The Western New York Regional Economic Development Council today announced details of community workshops designed to gain input and aid in the creation of the council's five-year economic development plan for the Western New York region, which includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. The public is also asked to fill out a brief, online survey to learn about views on economic development issues and assist in the strategic regional planning process.

The workshops, all to be held from 6 to 8 p.m., will take place in:

Allegany County - Thursday, September 8

Alfred State College
Arthur and Lea Powell Campus Center- Nevin's Theater
Alfred University
1 Saxon Drive
Alfred, NY 14802
607-871-2175
<http://www.alfred.edu/map/>

Cattaraugus County - Monday, September 12

Jamestown Community College -Olean Campus
Cutco Theater
260 N. Union St.

Olean, NY 14760

<http://www.sunyjcc.edu/cattaraugus>

Chautauqua County - Tuesday, September 13

Jamestown Community College

Robert Lee Scharmann Theatre, located at the Arts & Sciences Center

525 Falconer Street

Jamestown, NY 14702-0020

(716) 338-1000 or (800) 388-8557

<http://www.sunyjcc.edu/jamestown>

Erie County - Wednesday, September 14

Buffalo Stage College

Burchfield Penney Art Center Auditorium

1300 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14222

(716) 878-6011

<http://www.burchfieldpenney.org/>

(Parking available in Burchfield Penney Lot)

Niagara County - Thursday, September 15

Niagara County Community College

Humanities & Social Sciences Building- Room E140

3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.

Sanborn, NY 14132

(716) 614-6222

<http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/>

The format of the meeting is a facilitated community conversation and will include an overview of the regional council, a discussion of the strategic planning process and will utilize “clicker” technology that will allow the public to have their voices be heard regarding priorities and regional issues.

To register for the workshop, visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/western-new-york> or call (716) 846-8247.

In addition to these community workshops, the Council encourages the public to complete a public participation survey to maximize public input on this important initiative. The results will be shared with Regional Council work groups and the council at large. The survey, which only takes a few minutes to complete, can be found at <http://nyworks.ny.gov/western-ny-regional-issues-form>.

Created by Executive Order by Governor Cuomo, the Regional Economic Development Councils represent a fundamental shift in the state's approach to economic development—from a top-

down development model to a community-based approach that emphasizes regions' unique assets, harnesses local expertise, and empowers each region to set plans and priorities.

The Western New York Regional Economic Development Council is one of ten regional councils across New York that will serve as a single point of contact for economic activity in the region. Through their strategic planning process, the Councils will identify and expedite priority projects that demonstrate the greatest potential for job growth. As part of the initiative, up to \$1 billion in state resources will be accessible to eligible economic development projects through existing program grants and tax credits.

Each Regional Council will develop a plan for the development of their region, which will provide a regional vision for economic development, address critical issues and opportunities, and lay out an implementation roadmap for future growth. The state will work with the Regional Councils to align state resources and policies, eliminate unnecessary barriers to growth and prosperity, and streamline the delivery of government services and programs to help the Regional Councils carry out their plans for development.

To learn more about each region and their economic development plans, visit <http://www.governor.ny.gov>.

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