



For Immediate Release: Monday, September 19, 2011

Contact:

Austin Shafran (ESD) | ashafran@empire.state.ny.us | (800) 260-7313

Jola Szubielski (ESD) | jszubielski@empire.state.ny.us | (800) 260-7313

**SOUTHERN TIER REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
RESCHEDULED DATES FOR COMMUNITY FORUMS IN DELHI AND ITHACA**

Public is invited to workshops intended to share ideas for an economic development strategy

The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council today announced rescheduled dates for community forums in Delhi and Ithaca, which were previously postponed due to flooding. The community forums are designed to gain input and aid in the creation of the council's five-year strategic economic development plan for the Southern Tier Region, which includes Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben and Tioga counties.

The community forums will be held:

Delhi: Thursday, September 22, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

SUNY Delhi Campus
Bush Hall, Room 131
Delhi

Ithaca: Thursday, September 29, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Women's Community Building
100 West Seneca Street
Ithaca

The council plans to hold a facilitated community conversation at each of these community forums. The meetings will begin with an overview of the purpose of the regional council and a discussion of the strategic planning process. Facilitators will then seek the public's ideas and

suggestions and discuss the issues and opportunities facing the region. Those results will be tabulated and presented to the regional council at the next council meeting.

To register for the workshop, visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/souther-tier-form-08252011>, email Debbie at dfortner@empire.state.ny.us or call (607) 721-8605. Seating may be limited so please register early.

The Council has also encouraged the public to complete a public participation survey to maximize public input on this important initiative. The survey concluded on September 15th and results will be shared with Regional Council work groups and the council at large.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council is Wednesday, September 28 at Cornell University in Ithaca.

Created 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 Southern Tier 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 www.nyworks.ny.gov.

###