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Contact:

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

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

**MOHAWK VALLEY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ADOPTS REVISED VISION
STATEMENT AND SWOT SUMMARY**

Revisions based on public input gathered at public forums and online

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (MVREDC) met today and conducted its fourth meeting, which was open for public observation. The meeting, held at SUNY Cobleskill, was attended by Lt. Governor Robert Duffy, and led by Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council co-chairs Bjong Wolf Yeigh, President of the SUNY Institute of Technology, and Larry Gilroy, President of Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. The council is continuing its work to establish a successful five-year Strategic Plan for economic development in Herkimer, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie, Montgomery and Fulton counties.

During today's session, council members discussed and acted on materials developed by various workgroups, including Vision; Public Participation; SWOT/Regional Drivers; Strategies and Implementation; and Strategic Writing. The council presented and adopted a revised vision statement as well as a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats summary based on input gathered at multiple public forums held around the region and comments posted to the MVREDC's website, www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley.

"Thanks to the members of this council and the participation of the public across our region, we have made tremendous progress toward our goal," said President of the SUNY Institute of Technology and Council co-chair Bjong Wolf Yeigh. "With the process well underway, I'm confident that we will succeed in this important work—and our entire region will benefit as a result."

"The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council is well on its way to drafting a dynamic strategic plan for the six-county region," said Larry Gilroy, President of Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. and Council co-chair. "The revised vision statement, based on public input, now represents the vision that communities across the Mohawk Valley have for the long-term success and economic prosperity of their region. It will guide this council's planning process as we move forward."

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council's vision statement has been approved as follows:

The Mohawk Valley Region will create a vibrant future by promoting and sustaining a diverse, integrated, and dynamic economy that capitalizes on technology and innovation to drive collaboration, inclusiveness, and efficiency in all endeavors; that is regionally networked and globally connected; that will cultivate, attract, and empower skilled workers; and that will foster an entrepreneurial spirit and the renewal of our communities, while preserving and building upon our abundant natural, cultural, and geographical resources to secure a rewarding and affordable quality of life for all.

Both the final vision statement and SWOT summary can be found on the council's website at www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley.

A Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) workshop was held following the council meeting to help potential applicants better understand the CFA process. The workshop included an overview of the application process, as well as breakout sessions covering the areas of Business Assistance, Community Development, and Energy and the Environment.

The next regular scheduled meeting for the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council will be Wednesday, October 26 at 11:00 a.m. in SUNY Oneonta

The Mohawk Valley Regional Council, which is comprised of a diverse group of approximately 30 area leaders from the private and public sectors, labor, chambers of commerce, higher education, and community-based organizations, is working to create a five-year strategic plan for economic development in Herkimer, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie, Montgomery and Fulton counties. The strategic plan will provide a regional vision for economic development, address critical issues and opportunities, and lay out an implementation roadmap for future growth. Please visit www.nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley to learn more.

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.

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council is one of ten regional councils across New York that will serve as single points of contact for economic activity in each region. 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.

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