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**CAPITAL REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO MEET THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 20TH AT THE SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY CENTER**

Meeting will include a presentation of the highlights of the draft Strategic Plan

The Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC) will hold its next meeting on Thursday, October 20th at the Saratoga Springs City Center. Co-chaired by Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Michael J. Castellana, SEFCU's president and CEO, the group will meet to continue its work on a five year strategic economic development plan for the eight county Capital Region.

The meeting will include an update on recent and ongoing CREDC activities, a presentation of the highlights of the draft strategic plan, an overview of the Consolidated Funding Application review process, and provide an opportunity for public comment.

The public portion of the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will conclude with a public comment period for area business, labor, education, and community leaders and other interested citizens to provide the council with ideas and suggestions related to economic development. To allow as many people to participate as possible, each individual will be asked to speak for up to three minutes. The council also will accept written testimony at the meeting.

The meeting will be held in at the Saratoga Springs City Center, Meeting Room 1, at 522 Broadway in downtown Saratoga Springs. Directions and parking instructions can be accessed by going to the following link: <http://www.saratogacitycenter.org/index.php/location/>.

This is the CREDC's fifth meeting in the region, which includes Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Albany, Greene and Columbia counties.

The Capital Region Economic Development Council is one of ten regional councils across New York, created by Governor Andrew Cuomo, to 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 is crafting a five year strategic plan, 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 economic security.

To learn more about the CREDC activities, visit www.capitalregionopenforbusiness.com. To learn more about each region and their economic development plans, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov.

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