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**WESTERN NEW YORK REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
TO PRESENT DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

Public is invited to a region-wide webcast

The Western New York Regional Economic Development Council today announced it will present its Draft Strategic Plan to the public on October 25 via an interactive session webcast live from the University at Buffalo. The Council invites the public to participate in the webcast at locations in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Niagara counties, as well at UB. Those who wish to watch live from home may do so by visiting <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/western-new-york>.

The Draft Strategic Plan will encompass the progress of the WNY Regional Council and its workgroups to date. Documents relating to the work completed to date can be found on the Council's website.

The interactive sessions, all to be held on October 25 from 6 to 8 p.m., will take place in:

Allegany County

Alfred University

Olin Building, Room 302

1 Saxon Drive

Alfred, NY 14802

<http://www.alfred.edu/map/>

Cattaraugus County

Jamestown Community College

Cutco Theater

260 North Union St.

Olean, NY 14760

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

Chautauqua County

Jamestown Community College
Lenna Theatre—Hultquist Building
525 Falconer Street
Jamestown, NY 14702-0020
<http://www.sunyjc.edu/jamestown>

Erie County
University at Buffalo
Drama Theater– Center for Fine Arts
103 Center for the Arts
Buffalo, NY 14260
<http://www.buffalo.edu/buildings/pdf-page.html>

Niagara County
Niagara County Community College
Building E, Room 140
3111 Saunders Settlement Road
Sanborn, NY 14132
<http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/>

To register for the interactive sessions, visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/western-new-york> or call (716) 846-8247. Space may be limited so please register early.

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 Western New York Regional Economic Development Council is one of 10 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 for Western New York, which includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. 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 draft a strategic 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 regional council and their economic development plans, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov.

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