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SOUTHERN TIER REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SUBMITS COLLABORATIVE FIVE- POINT JOBS STRATEGY

Advocating proactive collaboration around energy, transportation, and food and agriculture as the engines for new jobs in the Southern Tier, the Regional Economic Development Council today submitted its final Strategic Plan with a list of key projects to jump start the economy.

“This blueprint for economic growth employs strategies for attracting business, enhancing agriculture and health care, expanding the industrial base and rebuilding our infrastructure,” said Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council Co-Chair and President of Cornell University David Skorton. “It is the result of input from our community leaders, who came together for the greater good of our region, as well as thousands of our local citizens. It is a plan worthy of our region’s support.”

“Through our Regional Council’s work, we have created a cohesive and competitive regional force,” said Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council Co-Chair and President of Corning Enterprises Tom Tranter. “I am proud of the countless hours of work by council members, work group members and staff who dedicated their time and expertise to the process, resulting in a shared vision for economic growth.”

The Southern Tier region’s strategic plan, “Catalytic, Collaborative, Comprehensive, Competitive,” is based on five strategies that best use the region’s assets, and the ability to capitalize on opportunities and address critical issues impeding growth. The strategies are:

- Strategy 1 – The Southern Tier...New York’s Leader in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technology

- Strategy 2 – Southern Tier Transportation Alliance...Building Next Generation Transportation Technology and Manufacturing
- Strategy 3 – Health Care 2020...Integrating Healthcare Providers, Higher Education, and Cutting-Edge Technology
- Strategy 4 – Revitalize the Rural Farm- and Forest-Based Economy of the Southern Tier
- Strategy 5 – Strengthen the Southern Tier’s Economic Development Backbone

The plan can be found at: <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/southern-tier>. The region is composed of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Tioga, Tompkins, Schuyler and Steuben counties.

The Governor has made \$1 billion available for the 10 Regional Councils, including \$200 million in competitive funding. A Strategic Plan Review Committee will analyze and compare each region’s Strategic Plan. Based upon this review, four regions will be awarded \$40 million each in capital funding and tax credits to be applied toward the priority capital projects identified in their plans. The remaining allocations will be divided among the other six regions.

The plan, the product of a planning process that involved the Regional Council members, more than 160 stakeholders from across the eight-county region and more than 1,600 citizens who added their voice through interactive forums and the Empire State Development website, is a focused, comprehensive economic development plan designed to restore the Southern Tier to a competitive market position.

The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council also identified priority projects that it recommends for immediate state support. The projects represent critical opportunities to build upon the region’s strengths and competitive advantages and immediately accelerate job creation and economic growth. The projects collectively support direct creation/retention of more than 17,000 jobs and \$140 million capital investment which will provide more than a \$700,000,000 return on investment.

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.

Each regional council developed a plan for the development of their region, which provides 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.

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