



For Immediate Release: Friday, September 9, 2016

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EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO KEY POSITIONS IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY REGION

***Michael Reese Joins Empire State Development As Regional Director for the
Mohawk Valley***

***Four New Members Appointed to Mohawk Valley Regional Economic
Development Council***

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced that Michael Reese has been appointed as Regional Director for the Mohawk Valley. Mr. Reese, who most recently served as the Director of Strategic Business Development for Human Technologies Corporation in Utica, brings more than 35 years of economic development experience to the position.

As Regional Director, Mr. Reese will work under the leadership of President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky, managing daily operations of the Mohawk Valley office in Utica and promoting economic development practices that retain and attract businesses and create jobs. In addition, Reese will also serve as Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (MVREDC)

“Mike Reese is a veteran economic developer, and will be a great fit as our new Regional Director for the Mohawk Valley,” **Commissioner Zemsky said.** “With more than three decades of experience in the region, including serving as member of the MVREDC since its inception, Mike brings a wealth of knowledge and the skills required to be a major asset to the six-county region. I am confident that he’ll work hard to continue the great work of Ken Tompkins, who recently retired after serving the region extraordinarily well for many years. I look forward to working closely with Mike to continue our efforts to grow jobs and local economies throughout the Mohawk Valley.”

For nearly 23 years, Mr. Reese was the Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, and also served as President & CEO of the Fulton County Center for Regional Growth.

“I look forward to both the challenges and opportunities presented by this new role and am honored to lead the State’s economic development efforts in the Mohawk Valley,” **said Reese**. “Thanks to the leadership of Governor Cuomo, the region is in a better position to attract private investment, business development and new jobs today, than it has been in many years. I have spent decades serving this diverse region and the experience has provided me with a strong understanding of the unique strengths and resources we must utilize in order to provide new economic opportunities for New Yorkers. I am also excited to join the top-notch staff at the regional office and work with the extraordinarily dedicated co-chairs and members of the Mohawk Valley REDC.”

Additionally, ESD today announced that four new members have been appointed to the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council:

Dr. Laura Casamento currently serves as president of Utica College and is the first woman to hold the College’s top position. She joined the College in 2004, serving as Executive Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer. Prior to joining Utica College, she spent more than 20 years in the private sector, including serving as President and CEO of Herkimer County Trust.

Sarah Goodrich is the Executive Director of Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc. (or SALT), which was formed in 2012 following the devastation left by Hurricane Irene in August 2011. Ms. Goodrich was recognized for her volunteer efforts during the cleanup and recovery from the storm, and SALT has been recognized on many levels during her leadership.

Katharine S. Landers is a Senior Vice President and Regulatory & Legal Affairs Division Manager of NYCM Insurance, with more than 30 years of experience in the insurance industry. Ms. Landers, a Cooperstown resident, is involved in many community activities as well as industry organizations throughout the state.

Ken Meifert is the Vice President of Sponsorship and Development at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, where he has worked for more than 20 years. He is also the former President of the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the Board of Directors for both the Museum Association of New York and the New York State Tourism Industry Association.

MVREDC Co-chairs Dr. Robert Geer, Senior Vice President & COO of SUNY Polytechnic Institute, and Lawrence T. Gilroy III, President of Gilroy, Kernan & Kilroy, Inc. said: “With their unique skillsets and experience, Mike, Laura, Sarah, Katharine and Ken will be excellent additions to the Mohawk Valley economic development team and we look forward to working together on strengthening our region’s economy. They each bring a wealth of regional knowledge to the Council and will be instrumental in ensuring the successful implementation our strategic vision for the region. We must also thank Ken Tompkins for his years of dedication to serving the people of the Mohawk Valley – his hard work has, without question, made our region a better place.”

The Mohawk Valley region includes Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego and Schoharie counties. After five rounds of the REDC initiative, the Mohawk Valley REDC has delivered \$362.2 million for 356 projects throughout the region.

Round VI of the REDC initiative will award more than \$750 million in state funding and tax incentives, including up to \$175 million in capital grants and up to \$70 million in Excelsior Tax Credits for projects and activities identified by the Councils as regional priorities in their communities. Additionally, over \$510 million from state agency programs will be awarded through the CFA process.

About the Regional Economic Development Councils

The Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) initiative is a key component of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's transformative approach to State investment and economic development. In 2011, Governor Cuomo established 10 Regional Councils to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. The Councils are public-private partnerships made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations. The Regional Councils have redefined the way New York invests in jobs and economic growth by putting in place a community-based, bottom up approach and establishing a competitive process for State resources.

After five rounds of the REDC process, nearly \$4 billion has been awarded to more than 4,100 job creation and community development projects consistent with each region's strategic plans, supporting the creation or retention of approximately 200,000 jobs. For more information on the Regional Councils, visit www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov.

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