



**Empire State  
Development**

Southern Tier  
**SOARING**

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**EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GROUNDBREAKING FOR SUNY  
BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE CULINARY ARTS CENTER**

*Project will allow for Expansion of College's Culinary Arts Program in downtown  
Binghamton*

*Investment Complements "Southern Tier Soaring" – Region's Successful Upstate  
Revitalization Initiative Blueprint to Grow the Economy and Create New Opportunities*

*Renderings of the new school can be found [here](#)*

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced the groundbreaking for the new SUNY Broome Community College Culinary Arts Center in downtown Binghamton. The construction of the contemporary hospitality school will allow for the repurposing of the 113-year-old Broome County Carnegie Library in downtown Binghamton. The renovated space will provide an advanced learning environment for the planned Culinary Arts Program, as well as hands-on experiences for the existing Hospitality and Events Management Programs.

**Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky said,** "This investment is another exciting chapter in the Southern Tier's economic narrative. Thanks to Governor Cuomo's vision and commitment to generating economic growth throughout upstate, this region will continue to look forward to real economic progress for years to come."

In 1903, Andrew Carnegie donated \$75,000 to establish the free public library on Exchange Street in Binghamton, and the library moved to its current location on Court Street in 2000. According to SUNY Broome, renovation work is expected to be completed within 16 to 18 months and the inaugural class for the culinary arts program will be between 50 and 75 students.

**SUNY Broome Community College President Kevin Drumm said,** "SUNY Broome is returning to downtown Binghamton – and revitalizing an important piece of the region's history. Our project will preserve the unique beauty of this historical landmark – while

providing a modern learning environment for our planned culinary arts program and hospitality programs.”

ESD, the state’s chief economic development agency, will provide a grant of up to \$2.2 million, as recommended by the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council (STREDC), to support the project. As a result, the SUNY Broome has committed to create nine full time jobs and retain hundreds of existing positions.

**Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council Co-Chairs Tom Tranter, President & CEO of Corning Enterprises and Harvey Stenger, President of Binghamton University, said** “With this investment we are supporting the college as they build upon the region’s standing as a “food hub”. Not only is the Southern Tier home to more than 200 farms, but also plays host to major food distributors like Willow Run and Maines. Investing in the remodeling of this storied building will help to continue the revitalization of downtown Binghamton which has seen significant growth in recent years thanks in part to the work of the STREDC.”

The total project cost is nearly \$12 million and includes support from ESD, SUNY (\$5 million), the Broome County Government Capital Plan (\$2.7 million), the Broome Community College Foundation (\$700,000), and \$1.3 million in Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

**Senator Fred Akshar said**, "It's an exciting time for Binghamton and I'm happy to see my alma mater expanding and improving our community with the Culinary Arts Center. Not only is this project good for our local economy, it's a smart, innovative use for the Carnegie Library. I commend BCC and ESD for all their hard work on this project that will have a positive impact throughout our region."

**Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo said**, “I was happy to secure a \$5 million appropriation in the state budget to help bring the historic Carnegie Library back to life with this new downtown development. Local food and agriculture are major components of our local economy; we want to continue to foster the culinary entrepreneurship that has helped revitalize the area. This school will encourage the next generation of restaurateurs, brewers, distillers, and other producers to stay in our community.”

**Broome County Executive Debra Preston said**, “As a SUNY Broome Alum, I am proud to partner with the school to give new life to a historic building in the heart of the City of Binghamton. Not only will the students have a brand new, state of the art facility, their presence will be an economic boost for the shops and restaurants downtown and I believe this project is positive for everyone involved.”

**Binghamton Mayor Richard David said**” Reviving this vacant historical building is so important. I am very pleased that this former bright spot will have a new life. SUNY Broome’s presence downtown can only add to the overall economic vitality of Binghamton as we continue to build on the notable growth that has been evident here in recent years.”

### **Accelerating Southern Tier Soaring**

Today's announcement complements "Southern Tier Soaring" the region's comprehensive blueprint to generate robust economic growth and community development. The State has already invested more than \$3.1 billion in the region since 2012 to lay for groundwork for the plan – attracting a talented workforce, growing business and driving innovation. Today, unemployment is down to the lowest levels since before the Great Recession; personal and corporate income taxes are down; and businesses are choosing places like Binghamton, Johnson City and Corning as a destination in which to grow and invest. Now, the region is accelerating Southern Tier Soaring with a \$500 million State investment through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, announced by Governor Cuomo in December 2015. The State's \$500 million investment will incentivize private business to invest well over \$2.5 billion – and the region's plan, as submitted, projects up to 10,200 new jobs. More information is available [here](#).

### **About Empire State Development**

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency ([www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov)). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov) and [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).

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