

## **Empire State Development News**

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## **EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT NAMES DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION FOR UPSTATE REGION**

Empire State Development Upstate Chairman Daniel C. Gundersen today announced that Michael W. Fitzner has accepted the position of ESD's Director of Construction, Upstate Region.

With over 30 years of experience in construction management, Mr. Fitzner's project delivery experience encompasses a variety of building types in the public and private sector. He will be responsible for the execution of construction management activities for major Upstate ESD projects, including the \$65 million asbestos abatement and demolition of Rochester's Midtown Plaza to make way for PAETEC Communication's new corporate headquarters building. In addition to the PAETEC building, the project will include additional commercial development parcels, redeveloped parking garage, public space, transportation/access and integration with surrounding developments. Mr. Fitzner will be based in Rochester.

"This is another great step forward in the progress of this critical development," said Mayor Robert J. Duffy. "I'd like to thank City Council, Governor Eliot Spitzer and our partners at the Empire State Development Corporation and PAETEC for their ongoing collaboration. I look forward to a productive relationship as we work together to rebuild Midtown."

Mr. Fitzner has over 15 years of experience in managing hazardous waste and environmental remediation projects, and holds a professional registration as a NYSDOL-Certified Asbestos Project Monitor. Prior to joining ESD, he was Senior Construction Manager with LP Ciminelli, Inc. where he oversaw award winning, multimillion-dollar projects that include a \$13 million, 116,000 sf Conference Center in Niagara Falls; the \$23 million Niagara Gorge Reconstruction project; and Erie Canal Harbor Project - Phase 2, a \$30 million redevelopment project that includes a Naval Museum and the recreation of the former Commercial Slip along the Buffalo River.

A graduate of State University of New York – Empire College, Mr. Fitzner earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and Economics, with a concentration in Construction Management. He and his family reside in Hamburg, New York.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit [www.nylovesbiz.com](http://www.nylovesbiz.com).

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