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**SOUTHERN TIER REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
COMMUNITY FORUMS AND RELEASES PUBLIC SURVEY**

*Public is invited to five workshops across the region intended to share ideas for an
economic development strategy*

The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council today announced details of community forums designed to gain input and aid in the creation of the council's five-year strategic economic development plan for the Southern Tier Region, which includes Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben and Tioga counties. The public is also asked to fill out a brief, online survey to learn about views on economic development issues and assist in the regional economic development strategic planning process.

The community forums will be held:

Binghamton: Thursday, 9/1/11, 10 a.m. to noon

SUNY BEST

Binghamton University Downtown Center

67 Washington St., Binghamton

Norwich: Thursday, 9/1/11, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Commerce Chenango

19 Eaton Ave., Eaton Center, Norwich

Delhi: Tuesday, 9/6/11, 6 to 8 p.m.

SUNY Delhi, Farrell 211

Farrell Student and Community Center, Delhi

Ithaca: Thursday, 9/8/11, 6 to 8 p.m.

Women's Community Building
100 West Seneca Street, Ithaca

Corning: Tuesday, 9/13/11, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Corning Community College
The Commons Building, 1 Academic Drive, Corning

The council plans to hold a facilitated community conversation at each of these first public meetings. The meetings will begin with an overview of the purpose of the regional council and a discussion of the strategic planning process. Facilitators will then seek the public's ideas and suggestions and discuss the issues and opportunities facing the region. Those results will be tabulated and presented to the regional council at the next council meeting.

To register for the workshop, visit <http://nyworks.ny.gov/souther-tier-form-08252011>, email Ann at akossachev@empire.state.ny.us or call (607) 721-8605. Seating may be limited so please register early.

In addition to these community forums, the Council encourages the public to complete a public participation survey to maximize public input on this important initiative. The results will be shared with Regional Council work groups and the council at large. The survey, which only takes a few minutes to complete, can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CommunityEconImpact>.

Created by Executive Order 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 Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council is one of ten 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. 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 develop a 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 region and their economic development plans, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov.

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