

Regional Economic Development Council - WNY Meeting Summary

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Location: UB Center of Excellence Bioinformatics & Life Sciences (CBLS) - 701 Ellicott Street, on the corner of Virginia St., 2nd floor, Rm B2-205, Buffalo 14203

Members of the public joined via Zoom

Council Members Present: Dr. Katherine Conway Turner, Erich Reich, AJ Baynes, Paul Brown, Deanna Brennan, Rosa Gonzalez, Tom Kucharski, Brenda McDuffie, Michael Metzger, Mary Beth Popp, Mayor Eddie Sundquist, Stephen Tucker

Council Members via Zoom: Dr. Mark Zupan, Crystal Abers

Council Members Substitutes: Brendan Mehaffy for City of Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, James Feldman for Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel, Michael Casale for Niagara County Chair Rebecca Wydysh, Dan Castle for Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz

State Agency Staff: **ESD:** Amanda Mays, Mo Sumbundu, Lynn Marinelli, Sonia Lombardo, Lorrie Abounader, Rose McCabe, Johanna Walczak, Jill Clark, Anita Bogoevska **DOL:** Tim Glass

Presenters: Laura Quebral, Executive Director, University of Buffalo Regional Institute. Christina Orsi, Associate Vice President, Business & Entrepreneur Partnerships, University of Buffalo

Time Adjourned: 3:12 pm.

Welcome and Remarks:

Call to Order:

Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.

Conflicts noted: (Please List)

Recusals noted: (Please List) Dr. Rosa Gonzalez

No conflicts noted.

The record of recusals was noted and acknowledged at the meeting.

Reports/Discussions/Motions:

I. Opening Remarks

Katherine Conway-Turner and Eric Reich, Co-Chairs, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

II. UB Innovation Hub Program Overview

Christina Orsi, Associate Vice President, Business & Entrepreneur Partnerships, University at Buffalo

Power point presentation outlining the UB Innovation Hub and Incubator projects (available on WNYREDC website)

- Companies participating in the Innovation Hub and Incubator include startups founded by University at Buffalo faculty, researchers, and students; Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center; Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute; Jacobs Institute; and Kaleida Health.
- Through the Buffalo Billion, support totaling \$32 million over five years was provided for the renovation of the CBLIS into a new incubator facility, pre-seed and seed funds, and support services for fostering the growth of startup companies.
- In over two years: 59 active start ups have been supported which have raised over \$31 million and created 74 jobs.

III. EDA Funding Opportunities and Regional Applications

Laura Quebral, Executive Director, University at Buffalo Regional Institute

Power point presentation outlining new federal programs through the U.S. Economic Development Administration and WNYREDC opportunities for regional funding (available on WNYREDC website)

- Through the American Rescue Plan, EDA has released several grant opportunities, three of which WNY REDC is considering applying – Build Back Better Regional Challenge, Good Jobs Challenge, and Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation.
- The group discussed program deadlines and the application goals that REDC-led workgroups have developed.
- ESD will submit on behalf of WNYREDC for the 10/15/2021 BBBRC deadline, with more work to come for the later programs.

IV. Review 2021 REDC Scores for State Agency CFA Programs

Amanda Mays, Executive Director, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

- Power point presentation outlining 2021 CFA applications received and scored by the WNYREDC (available on WNYREDC website) WNY received 207 applications for all state agency programs (not inclusive of rolling application ESD programs). 181 were deemed eligible for scoring and reviewed by REDC score groups.

- Dr. Rosa Gonzalez noted two additional recusals on Climate Smart Community grants for Erie County.
- The group reviewed the compiled list of all project scores, as well as projects previously submitted for ESD grant funding.

The WNYREDC voted to approve the scores on a motion to approve by Paul Brown and second by Michael Metzger. The vote carried unanimously.

V. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Katherine Conway-Turner and Eric Reich, Co-Chairs, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

- Regional Council will review WNY Round 5 DRI applications in the coming weeks, and convene to discuss/approve score. Meeting date TBD.
- 2021 Annual Report was distributed.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.