

FLREDC MEETING SUMMARY

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced: June 24, 2022 at 10:05 am

Location: SUNY Geneseo, MacVittie College Union, 1 College Circle, Geneseo, NY

Council Members Present: Denise Battles, Bob Duffy, Assemblymember Harry Bronson, Dr. DeAnna Burt-Nanna, Matthew Cole, Steve Griffin, Matt Hurlbutt, Steve Hyde, Supervisor Jack Marren, Faheem Masood, Steve Mowers, John Noble, Hilda Rosario Escher, Supervisor Rebecca Ryan, Jaime Saunders, Legislator Rochelle Stein, Erin Tolefree

****Council Member Substitutes:** Bill Bacon for Supervisor Dave LeFeber, Tammy Mayberry for Mayor Malik Evans, Jeff McCann for County Executive Adam Bello, Mitch Rowe for Supervisor Robert Hayssen, Maya Temperley for President David Munson

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: Vincent Esposito, Bridget O'Brien, Kristin McCann, Steve Golding, Greg Parker, Maranne McDade Clay, Sharon Gray, Joseph Hamm, Elizabeth Morabito, Joseph Leathersich

Special Guests: Lorraine Woerner-MacGowan, Four Cats Creative; David Seeley, RochesterWorks!

Time Adjourned: 11:35 AM

Co-Chair Welcome: Denise Battles welcomed everyone to SUNY Geneseo and the first in-person FLREDC meeting since 2019. Bob Duffy also welcomed everyone and encouraged Council Members to actively participate in the important work ahead.

Introductions:

Given that this is the first in-person meeting in almost three years, each Council Member and Council Member Alternate introduced themselves.

Legislator Shelley Stein congratulated Vincent Esposito on his promotion to Senior Vice President for Regional Economic Development at ESD. Bob Duffy echoed her congratulations and thanked Vinnie for his ten years of dedicated service to the Finger Lakes Region.

Host & Host County Welcome & Update:

Denise Battles welcomed everyone to the SUNY Geneseo campus and thanked Vincent, Bridget O'Brien, and Bob Duffy for all their hard work. She spoke of the important partnership between the Regional Councils and higher education. Geneseo continues to rank as one of the premier public colleges in the country and is the top producer of physics graduates in the United States. Like all higher education institutions, Geneseo faces challenges, but despite those the rate of return on investment in SUNY is significant.

Bill Bacon gave a brief presentation (posted on-line) outlining economic development efforts underway in Livingston County. Focusing on tourism, downtown development, and community development, Livingston County has many exciting initiatives underway.

Bob Duffy took a moment to thank Assemblymember Bronson and Marc Cohen, Rochester Chamber of Commerce Chief of Staff, for their efforts to pass the Buy American Salt Act, which will benefit New York salt mines, including American Rock Salt located in Livingston County.

Supervisor Jack Marren congratulated Bill Bacon on Livingston County's successful broadband access efforts.

Executive Director Update (Last Meeting: 5/13/22): Vincent Esposito introduced and welcomed new FLREDC Member, Wayne County Board of Supervisors Chair Phil Eygnor as well as the regional New York State agency team. He gave a presentation (posted on-line) highlighting major project announcements since the last FLREDC meeting, CFA Round 11 Awards, new changes to this year's CFA process, and other noteworthy events since the last meeting. He also provided a brief overview of additional new funding opportunities.

He discussed some housekeeping items including due dates for ethics training, submission of Code of Conduct and Statement of Interest forms, and the annual golf outing on 8/25. He also urged Council Members to share resumes of qualified candidates for the Finger Lakes Regional Director position.

He congratulated GRE on their 20th Anniversary celebration as well as the success of the Jazz Fest.

FLREDC Annual Report Update: Bridget O'Brien gave a presentation (posted on-line) of this year's annual report format as well as a timeline of deliverables. Access to talent and workforce development are critical to the health of our region's economy. The 2022 report will focus on our regional workforce inventory currently being conducted by the new Workforce & Talent Workgroup.

Bridget thanked members of the Annual Report Workgroup. Vincent Esposito emphasized the tight timeline and encouraged input from all Council Members throughout the process. He also asked for help collecting photos/graphics for the report.

Workforce & Talent Workgroup Update: Workgroup Co-Chair Dr. DeAnna R. Burt-Nanna began the presentation (posted on-line) outlining the comprehensive membership of the Workgroup. She highlighted the new Office of Strategic Workforce Development and the role the 10 regional councils will play in engaging local stakeholders and identifying specific priority skills and industries in each region. The first focus of the Work group is compiling a regional workforce inventory, which will be used to create our regional workforce strategies and help prioritize workforce development funding.

David Seeley, Workgroup Co-Chair, continued the presentation. He outlined the second phase of the Workgroup's mission to identify four priority employment sectors for consideration. Considerable work has already been done to formulate priority plans in our region through previous FLREDC work as well as the Good Jobs Challenge application submitted by Monroe County on behalf of all counties in our region in February 2022. The Workgroup has initially proposed five sectors for consideration: Agriculture & Food Production; Information Technology; Skilled Construction Trades; Manufacturing; Health Care Provision. In addition, the Workgroup will need to identify in-demand skills in these priority sectors. The data collected by the Department of Labor's recent Survey of Businesses and Job Seekers will be instrumental in this effort.

The Workgroup must also identify populations most in need of workforce training, who have traditionally been marginalized and are underrepresented in the workforce. There was discussion of Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino; Youth; and Disabled population employment statistics. Identifying barriers to employment as well as supportive services for both individuals and businesses will be a continued focus of the Workgroup.

Dr. Burt-Nanna informed the Council that the Workforce & Talent Workgroup met this week and has sent out its own survey to collect additional data.

Vincent Esposito asked Assemblymember Harry Bronson to address the Council. Assemblymember Bronson thanked Governor Hochul for her leadership on workforce development. He stressed the need for equity and inclusion as the Council formulates its regional strategies. Marginalized communities must be represented at the table throughout the entire process.

Legislator Shelley Stein asked how the Workgroup was addressing inclusion. Dr. Burt-Nanna responded that the diverse make up of the Workgroup, which includes community action agencies throughout the region, is a start to ensure more voices are heard. Efforts to ensure inclusion are ongoing.

Jaime Saunders thanked the Workgroup for their holistic approach but emphasized that she didn't see anything specific to Direct Care Professionals. She insisted this critical vocation must be included in their work. Vincent Esposito added that there will also be statewide initiatives that address some of these statewide challenges.

Hilda Rosario Escher stressed the need for language access services for the Latino community. Dr. Burt-Nanna responded that the Workgroup is working to integrate language access into its final recommendation.

Steve Mower urged input from for-profit organizations be considered as well. There needs to be better collaboration and coordination during these efforts. Vincent Esposito responded that employer-driven solutions is a major focus of the Office of Strategic Workforce Development.

Bob Duffy discussed using a metrics system to measure outcomes and survey feedback. He also stressed the need to identify systemic barriers to employment, such as childcare and transportation.

FLREDC 2022 Work Plan: Vincent Esposito quickly reviewed the FLREDC Work Plan highlights for the remainder of 2022 (posted on-line).

Discussion and Next Steps: Vincent Esposito thanked Faheem Masood and Ajamu Kitwana from ESL for their work on the newly created Regional Revitalization Partnership.

Denise Battles expressed her appreciation to her partners on the Council and at ESD. She thanked everyone for their hard work on these important issues.

Bob Duffy echoed her sentiment. He thanked Vincent and Bridget as well as SUNY Geneseo for hosting the meeting. In his firsthand experience, FLREDC works very well and is the best in the state.

Next Public Meeting: September 27, 2022 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (Location TBD). Meeting adjourned.