

## FLREDC MEETING SUMMARY

### **Introductory Information:**

**Date and Time Meeting Commenced:** September 27, 2022 at 1:07 PM

**Location:** Monroe Community College, Brighton Campus

**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, Theresa Mazzullo, Steve Mowers, Hilda Rosario Escher, Supervisor Rebecca Ryan, Jaime Saunders

**\*\*Council Member Substitutes:** Bill Bacon for Supervisor Dave LeFeber, Tammy Mayberry for Mayor Malik Evans, Ana Liss for County Executive Adam Bello, Mitch Rowe for Supervisor Robert Hayssen, Vanessa Herman for President David Munson, Josh Farrelman for Peter Robinson

**State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff:** Vincent Esposito, Bridget O'Brien, Kristin McCann, Shari Voorhees-Vincent, Steve Golding, Maranne McDade Clay, Joseph Hamm, Elizabeth Morabito, Joseph Leathersich, Samantha Aldrich, Greg Albert, Arthur Briley, Fred Bonn

**Special Guests:** Congressman Joseph Morelle; David Seeley, RochesterWorks!; Elizabeth Lusskin, EVP Small Business & Technology Development, ESD; Amber Rangel, VP and Director, Workforce Development, ESD; Laura Fox O'Sullivan, new incoming Finger Lakes Regional Director, ESD.

**Time Adjourned:** 2:47 PM

**Co-Chair Welcome:** Denise Battles welcomed everyone. She congratulated MCC President, Dr. DeAnna Burt-Nanna, on her recent inauguration as MCC's sixth president. She indicated there was a full agenda with several special guests and thanked ESD staff for their work. Bob Duffy also welcomed everyone and said a special thank you to outgoing Council Member Hilda Rosario Escher for all her important contributions to the FLREDC.

**Executive Director Update (Last Meeting: 6/24/22):** Vincent Esposito announced that Council Members Hilda Rosario Escher and Dave Mansfield were both resigning from the FLREDC and thanked them both for their hard work over the years. He also congratulated Dr. DeAnna Burt-Nanna on her inauguration. He gave a presentation (posted on-line) highlighting major project announcements since the last FLREDC meeting and provided a brief overview of additional new funding opportunities.

He gave a brief high-level overview of our region's job base, pandemic recovery rate, labor force growth, and unemployment rate. He concluded by introducing the new Finger Lakes Regional Director, Laura Fox O'Sullivan, who starts on October 11<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged Council Members to reach out and introduce themselves to Laura.

**Host Welcome & Update:** Dr. Burt Nanna welcomed everyone to Monroe Community College's Brighton campus. She gave a presentation (posted on-line) highlighting MCC's impact on the community, holistic student support services, and the recently completed five-year strategic plan.

**Federal Economic Development, Regional Impact Update:** Congressman Joseph Morelle gave a presentation (posted on-line) summarizing the historic federal investments made in recent years and the impact these new

funding opportunities can have on our region. He highlighted the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. He also thanked the Council Members for their past financial support of the Systems Integration Project, now known as TogetherNow. Now in the third year of the Council's five-year commitment, the Congressman gave a brief update on TogetherNow's progress in developing and implementing MyWayFinder, a new tool to share information and better navigate Monroe County's complex service system.

Bob Duffy recommended that everyone read Jonathan Gruber and Simon Johnson's book, *Jump-starting America: How Breakthrough Science Can Revive Economic Growth and the American Dream*. He thanked Congressman Morelle for taking its contents seriously and helping position our community for success. He also congratulated Congressman Morelle on his commitment to the important systems integration work being done by TogetherNow.

Josh Farrelman congratulated the Congressman on his recent appointment to the Appropriations Committee and the important opportunity this provides our region.

**NYS Small Business & Technology Development:** Liz Lusskin, Executive Vice President of Small Business & Technology Development at Empire State Development, thanked Vinnie and the Council for the invitation to visit Rochester and provide an overview of her department and the many programs they offer. She highlighted (posted on-line) the Federal State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) enacted in 2021 to create specialized small business access to capital programs that focus on several key categories. Liz highlighted what New York State expects to receive from the SSBCI program, the new state programs being created per federal statute, and the program's focus on assistance for socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI).

She briefly outlined ESD's Division of Science, Technology, and Innovation (NYSTAR) and a few of the valuable programs they fund, including the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NY MEP), Centers for Advance Technology (CATs), Centers of Excellence (COEs), and New York State Certified Business Incubators and Innovation Hot Spots. Liz included a slide (posted on-line) of the Centers in the Finger Lakes' region.

**NYS Office of Strategic Workforce Development:** Amber Rangel, Vice President and Director of Workforce Development at Empire State Development shared the new Office of Strategic Workforce Development's (OSWD) key priorities: a strategic focus on "good jobs", active business participation in workforce development, better serving marginalized communities, and improved data collection and tracking of funded programs. The details of OSWD's new funding opportunities should be released within the next couple weeks, but Amber provided a high-level overview of the new Pay for Performance (P4P) Program and the Workforce Development Capital Grant Program. It is expected that the initial deadline to apply will be October 2022 with award announcements in December 2022. She encouraged people to visit OSWD's webpage, <https://esd.ny.gov/office-strategic-workforce-development>, for updates and sign up to receive email alerts.

Assemblymember Bronson congratulated Amber on her new position at ESD and for her work to get the OSWD up and running. He asked her if the Manufacturers Association of Central New York's Intermediary Apprenticeship Program would be eligible to apply. Amber indicated they would be eligible. Assemblymember Bronson followed up by asking if wrap around services were required. Amber replied that it was not a requirement but could help the application. OSWD is encouraging partnerships with community-based organizations and the education community.

**Workforce & Talent Workgroup Update & Discussion:** Workgroup Co-Chair David Seeley began by thanking the other Co-Chairs and Workgroup members for all their work over the last few months. He also thanked Amber Rangel for her assistance. He gave a report (posted on-line) of the Workgroup's progress since the last Regional Council meeting. He recapped Phase I work to compile a regional workforce inventory and outlined Phase II efforts to identify and prioritize two or three tradable sectors for strategy development. The Workgroup is proposing 1) advanced manufacturing with an emphasis on optics, photonics, imaging, biotech and software; 2) agribusiness; 3)

cleantech and renewable energy. He described how these sectors were chosen and prioritized. There was discussion about why healthcare and the skilled construction trades, both of which are FLREDC priority workforce sectors, were not included. He outlined the remaining deliverables that the Workgroup will continue to work on.

Amber Rangel indicated that the NYS Department of Health is focusing on workforce training for the healthcare industry and has an excellent on-line summary of their healthcare workforce efforts.

**Downtown Revitalization & New York Forward Selection Process:** Vincent Esposito provided an update (posted on-line) of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and New York Forward selection processes. The application deadline for both programs recently closed on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Four municipalities submitted DRI applications from the Finger Lakes Region. Each REDC will nominate one community or two/three smaller communities for a DRI award of \$10 million. 16 applications were submitted for the NY Forward program from our Region. NY Forward allows for up to three awards per region. Each REDC will nominate either two \$4.5 million awards or one \$4.5 million and two \$2.25 million awards. Vinnie asked Council Members to contact him or Bridget if interested in volunteering for the selection committee.

**FLREDC 2022 Work Plan:** Bridget O'Brien, Deputy Director of the FLREDC, gave a brief overview (posted on-line) of the Work Plan for the remainder of 2022. The Workforce & Talent Workgroup will continue the Workforce Phase II Project. The DRI Round 6/NY Forward selection process will begin. The rolling deadlines for ESD Grants will continue on October 31<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> with scoring to follow. It is anticipated that DRI Round 5 projects and CFA Round 12 awards will be announced later this year.

**Discussion & Next Steps:** Vincent Esposito informed the Council Members that he didn't anticipate another meeting before the end of the year, but he would keep them posted. He thanked Council Members in advance for volunteering for the selection process. He opened the discussion to final comments and questions.

Seneca County Administrator Mitch Rowe reiterated Seneca County's concerns about the impact of closing the Willard Drug Treatment Campus. He urged the responsible and speedy redevelopment of this important and historic site.

Denise Battles thanked everyone for all the great work being done and commented how nice it was to be in person at MCC.

Bob Duffy also thanked everyone and acknowledged Tonya Dickerson, who is working on workforce development issues for the Chamber. He encouraged participation in the DRI and NY Forward selection processes.

The newest Greater ROC video was played for everyone.

Bob Duffy concluded the meeting by thanking Vinnie Esposito for his leadership over the last decade as Finger Lakes Regional Director. His advocacy and partnership with businesses and organizations in our Region has paid enormous dividends and he looks forward to Vinnie's continued involvement in his new leadership role at ESD.

Vinnie thanked everyone for their partnership during his tenure and he looks forward to continuing to be a part of the important economic development work in our Region.

**Next Public Meeting:** TBD. Meeting adjourned.