



August 9, 2006

To the Residents and Businesspersons of Our Region,

As individually operating entities and concerned individuals in our region, we have each come rapidly to an understanding that despite our focused and dedicated efforts to concurrently serve the swiftly changing needs of the business community and the education needs of the people who live in our region, the growing task demands we align and amplify our efforts.

From our community and within our own organizations, we hear the apprehension of our members, our clients, and our business partners about the changing levels of skill requirements, appropriate subject matter, and clear expectations required by business in preparation for today's competitive environment, and the even more competitive environment of tomorrow. We have each worked to address these needs, building further and further upon collaborative efforts to answer the critical call for rapid skills development and workforce education and training to support business demand.

It is clear to us all that further aligning education and business— particularly in literacy, technology, math, engineering and the sciences – is indispensable in the new global economy to support growth and replicate success. It is also clear that improving communication and connectivity between education, workforce development and economic development efforts must be our priority to address the workforce crisis.


To that end, collectively we commit to address this situation. Over the next several months, we will host a series of community conversations to address the state - and the needs - of workforce development.

These conversations will shape a draft Workforce Action Agenda, which will be presented to the public for review and feedback. At a Workforce Summit in March of 2007, we will enlist the aid of educators, businesses, economic development, workforce development and community stakeholders to set priorities and implement actions to ensure the success of our region.

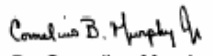
We believe it is only through this collaborative approach that Central New York can build the strength of our existing workers, attract and retain a viable population of skilled workers, and succeed in coming years.

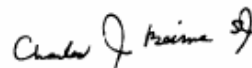
Signed,

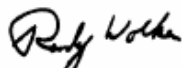

Nick Pirro,
County Executive,
Onondaga County

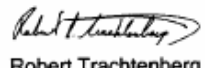

Matt Driscoll,
Mayor,
City of Syracuse

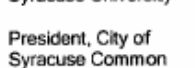

Bea Gonzales,
Interim Dean,
University College of
Syracuse University

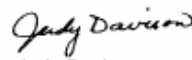

Dr. Cornelius Murphy,
President, SUNY-ESF



Charles J. Beirne, S.J.
President, LeMoyne
College

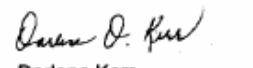

Randy Wolken,
President,
Manufacturers Assn
of Central New York


Robert Trachtenberg,
President, CNY
Technology Dev.
Organization


Joe Vargo,
Executive Director,
Partners for Education
& Business


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City School District


Darlene Kerr,
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Dr. Debbie Sydor
President, Onondaga
Community College