

Finger Lakes Regional Prosperity Network



Regional Prosperity: *Collaboration Across Boundaries*

October 25, 2016 - Watkins Glen, NY

EVENT PROGRAM

- 8:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am Welcome
- 9:30 Keynote Address:
Building networks, supporting innovation, facilitating collaboration in rural communities to create a strong, sustainable regional economy using the food sector as an example
- 10:30 am Break and Refreshments
- 10:45 am Break-Out Discussion
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:30 Panel Discussion:
Working regionally to create impact
- 1:50 pm Presentation:
Growing our food processing sector
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:30 pm Break-Out Discussion
- 3:30 pm Closing Remarks
- 4:00 pm Refreshments and Departure

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Leslie Schaller

Director of Programs - Appalachian
Center for Economic Networks
(ACEnet)

As Director of Programs, Ms. Leslie Schaller has directed multiple training and technical assistance programs which assist micro-entrepreneurs through small business curriculum development, contract services and the formation of support networks of resource providers. Ms. Schaller secures public and private funding through grants and fees for services to support regional brand initiatives, targeted sector training, financial management support and capital access. Ms. Schaller is responsible for working directly with entrepreneurs throughout the intake and assessment process, start-up and expansion stages.

Ms. Schaller is currently a partner of the Aspen Institute's Scale Academy, the Central Appalachian Network, the Ohio Food Policy Network, the Ohio Food Hub Network and UpGrade Athens County.

PANELIST BIOS

Martin J. Broccoli has directed the Oneida County, New York Agriculture Economic Development Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County, since 2000. Marty's responsibilities include overseeing implementation of the County's Farmland Protection Program, including dozens of economic development initiatives designed to help foster a climate that supports and promotes the retention and expansion of agriculture businesses within the county and beyond. Marty has a BS in Business Administration/Marketing from Utica College of Syracuse University, and an MS in Business Education from SUNY Albany. He has been an Adjunct Professor at Utica College, and an Assistant Professor of Agriculture Business at SUNY Cobleskill. The combination of real-world and academic alliances helps keep Marty at the forefront of current information and activities, especially related to agri-business.

Dave Phillips, Training Manager, is responsible for all training at G. W. Lisk and development of the G. W. Lisk/FLCC Advanced Manufacturing Machinist Training program. Dave is an executive board member of FAME, Fingerlakes Advanced Manufacturing Enterprise, and will take over as chair in 2017. Dave also serves on the board of the Finger Lakes Workforce Development Board. Previously, Dave has held positions from machinist, process development and programming, tooling procurement to department supervisor. G. W. Lisk, headquartered in Clifton Springs, designs and manufactures solenoids, solenoid valves, LVDT's, and flame arrestors for the aerospace, automotive and medical industries.

Nathan L. Rudgers is Senior Vice President and Director of Business Development for Farm Credit East. Nathan is responsible for bringing resources to Farm Credit's clients who are planning or undergoing major business changes. He is a frequent speaker on such topics as renewable energy, food safety, international trade, agriculture policy and economic development. He serves in several leadership positions including the national steering committee for 25 X 25, a group of industry leaders dedicated to fostering Agriculture and Forestry's role in US energy independence. Prior to joining Farm Credit, Nathan served as New

PANELIST BIOS

York's Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and as President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. Nathan was raised on a dairy and cash crop farm. He has a BS in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University.

Natasha Thompson is the President & CEO of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier in Elmira, NY. She has over 18 years of experience in food banking and started her career as an Americorps*VISTA volunteer at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank in 1997. Natasha holds a BA in Psychology & Religion and an MBA, both from the University of Rochester. She is also the Chair of the Food Bank Association of New York State and a member of Feeding America's National Council of food banks, representing the Eastern Region. Natasha believes that food brings people to the table, both figuratively and literally, where conversations happen, relationships take root and communities are transformed.

Marcia D. Weber is the Executive Director of Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board. Marcia oversees a three-county agency working to benefit federal, state, and local government, business and industry, and not for profit organizations. Program areas include economic development, land use and environmental planning, transportation, human services, local government services, computer technology assistance, geographic information systems (GIS), and flood recovery and mitigation. Among her other responsibilities, Ms. Weber has been engaged in telecommunications planning for over 10 years and was instrumental in the creation of the Southern Tier Network. She has served on many boards of directors throughout the three counties and currently serves on the Guthrie Corning Hospital Board of Directors and the Painted Post Planning Board as well as the Southern Tier Network Board of Directors.

OVERVIEW OF FLRPnet

Finger Lakes Regional Prosperity Network (FLRPnet) was created in 2013 as a tool to extend the capacity and reach of economic development efforts in Tompkins County and the greater Finger Lakes region.

Mission

Working to improve the economic condition of the region particularly of underserved and economically isolated people.

Vision

Economic prosperity for the region.

FLRPnet seeks to catalyze, plan, develop partnerships, and build funding for projects where there is a common economic development mission across multiple counties in the Finger Lakes region.

FLRPnet's impact targets are:

- rural wealth creation
- workforce development
- entrepreneurship
- energy transition

FLRPnet's first major initiative is a regional business incubation program targeting the food-processing sector.

FLRPNET BOARD MEMBER BIOS

Dan Fessenden is the Executive Director of the Fred L. Emerson Foundation, a family philanthropy based in Auburn, New York. Previously he served as executive director of the Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park, worked for Carrier Corp/United Technologies Corp., and was an elected member of the New York State Assembly. Dan has extensive board experience in the private and non-profit sectors including as Director of the Tompkins Financial Corporation, Wells College, and the American Agriculturist Foundation.

OVERVIEW OF FLRPNET

Jeannette Frank, Executive Director of The Arc of Schuyler, a nonprofit that provides supports for people with disabilities, operates a vocational training center, Glen Industries, specializing in co-packing of dry food products and bottling of hot and cold acidified and low acidified foods for small scale producers. Jeannette also serves on the Board of Directors for SCOPED (Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development); Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben Workforce, NY; and the Finger Lakes Collaborative, a consortium of 13 regional Arc Chapters.

Janet Hawkes (Chair): Janet serves as an advisor to a number of governments, companies, and organizations addressing agriculture, food systems, and environmental issues. She works internationally, and also served on the Stone Barns Center for Sustainable Agriculture Board of Directors, Tompkins County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, TCAD, as well as other economic development, environmental, education, and agriculture boards and committees.

Jean McPheeters (Treasurer): Jean recently retired as President of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce. She is currently a consultant. Jean has served on many boards of directors including the Cayuga Medical Center, the Paleontological Research Institution, and the Tompkins Cortland Community College Foundation.

Lou Walcer (Vice Chair): Lou is Director of the Kevin M. McGovern Family Center For Venture Development in the Life Sciences at Cornell University. Lou was formerly the Senior Commercialization Officer at Cleveland Clinic Innovations and has a track record of building and launching new products and new ventures in the medical device industry.

Gene Yarussi (Secretary): Gene retired as CEO of an Emerson Electric division after a 42 year career. Gene also has extensive local public service experience. He has served, is currently serving, or consulted with: The Sciencenter, TC3 Foundation, Racker Centers, Family and Children's Service, Challenge Workforce Solutions, Love Living at Home, Congregational Church and Tompkins Public library.

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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

 TCAD

Tompkins County Area Development

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