

**ALLEGANY COUNTY
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT**

2015 Annual Report

The Allegany County Office of Development went through a variety of transitions during 2015. In March the Director of Development, John Foels retired after 14 years. Kier Dirlam then took over Development Office management duties also. In May, long-time Clerk Patience Reagan retired. In June the Legislature created the Office of Planning. In July the Legislature appointed and transferred the County Planner to the Director of Planning position and transferred the secretary to Planning. All financial oversight of the Office of Development was transferred under the staff of the Office of Planning. The contract with IOC Services, Jack Wood, was continued through the year to provide Development related tasks with additional staff time. In August a decision was made by the Legislature to engage the services of Alfred State College for Development related services also. This contract ultimately started in January 2016. The Office of Development is currently part of the Office of Planning. We focused our collective efforts in the development of commerce within the county through the retention, expansion and attraction of business and services. An Economic Development Team was created including representation from the County Administrator, Office of Development, Office of Planning, Office of Employment and Training, Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, ACCORD, Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board, Comprehensive Plan Implementation Group and Cornell Cooperative Extension. This group had a series of tasks that they worked on during this year.

Projects:

Crossroads: Marketing of the Crossroads sites near I-86 for travel related services such as hotel, restaurant, fuel and retail continued. The IDA purchased the former truck stop property near Exit 30 for redevelopment.

Business and Technology Transfer: Allegany County had its first StartupNY company locate in Cuba during the year. Alfred State College is the primary school associated with this company. Alfred University is now a StartupNY certified school also with designated space available. The Ceramic Corridor Incubator in Alfred rebranded itself under the IncubatorWorks moniker as it created new alliances with Cornell University, SUNY Binghamton and University of Buffalo in addition to SUNY Alfred and Alfred University and developed a new site for large scale work to the east.

Marketing: Information and marketing material were developed on Sugar Hill Industrial Park in Alfred, and the Van Campen Industrial Park located on CR 20 in Friendship. A variety of new marketing materials were worked on throughout the year. A database of available properties for sale or lease was developed.

Infrastructure: NYS Route 417 East Waterline project went into construction in the later part of the year with municipal water being brought to approximately 800 employees at fourteen company sites along the project. The waterline project from Friendship to Belvidere was worked on to create new legal entity to manage the system and gain financial grants.

Regular Meetings: Either staff or contractors attended monthly meetings for Facilities & Communications, Committee of the Whole, Planning and Economic Development, Genesee River Wilds, Comprehensive Plan Implementation Group, and the Allegany County Industrial Development Agency.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Kier Dirlam
Director Office of Planning