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- ***A message from Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo***
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Assemblywoman Lupardo speaks on Women's Workforce legislation she cosponsored that was recently signed into law by Governor Cuomo.

September 2012

Dear Neighbor,

I've put this newsletter together with highlights of some of the positive economic development activities that are happening in our community and around the state. As you may have heard, New York State ranked in the Top 10 in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's study on economic growth since 2010 and the Binghamton region recently ranked 3rd statewide for private sector job growth. This activity is the result of work we've done together locally and at the State Capital.

We have a lot going for us in spite of what some may say. Even though we've been knocked down by two devastating floods, we've managed to get back up on our feet each time. It takes a very special community to pull together the way we have done. I've worked to provide as much assistance as possible from the state to help us recover, but we also have to stay focused on flood prevention. We need to determine how much it will cost to add additional flood protection.

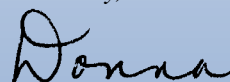
I'm sure you've heard about the Governor's Regional Economic Development Councils. Broome County has benefited from being joined together with Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuylers, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins and Tioga counties to develop common regional strengths. The Southern Tier Council is focused on: energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation technology and manufacturing, health care, local agriculture and community revitalization.

The Council knows that Binghamton University is a vital part of our local economy. And as hundreds of students prepare to move into downtown, reinvigorating the urban center, the university is poised for additional growth. For example, two new engineering buildings are already open at the Innovative Technologies Complex on the Vestal Parkway. The Center for Excellence building is under construction and a fourth has just been approved. Under the NYSUNY 2020 plan, planning for Smart Energy Research and Development facility will begin soon.

BU is not only one of the flagships of the SUNY system, but is also one of the top research institutions in the country. By encouraging entrepreneurs in the spirit of Watson and Johnson, innovations are being discovered that can become the next IBM or EJ. And working with Broome Community College (SUNY Broome) students have a real advantage with two of the finest institutions in the country right here.

You'll find in this mailing a summary of legislative accomplishments, along with local resources that may be helpful to you or to someone you know who is seeking employment or a career change. Please free to contact my office any time. We'll do our best to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,



Donna Lupardo
Member of Assembly



Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo

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Legislative Highlights

- **State Budget:** The 2012-13 budget controlled spending without raising taxes, while making vital investments to our schools, colleges, workforce and infrastructure.
- **Regional Economic Development Councils:** \$220 million was set aside to support a second round of Regional Economic Development Councils, an initiative to jumpstart local economies across NYS. Among other projects, Broome County hopes to receive funding for an incubator to help commercialize research being done at BU.
- **New York Works Economic Development Fund:** \$75 million was appropriated for this new initiative that includes business development and job creation efforts to revitalize the state's economy. Flood remediation projects will be funded as well.
- **Expiration of the Sales Tax on Clothing:** New York State no longer collects sales tax on clothing and footwear under \$110, but local taxes still apply.

I was a sponsor of these initiatives as well:

- **Solar tax credits:** The NY-Sun initiative will make solar energy more affordable for homeowners and businesses as well as create new jobs in the state's growing solar energy sector. The new laws include statewide tax credits for the lease of solar equipment and power purchase agreements and statewide sales tax exemptions for commercial solar equipment.
- **Brewer's Tax Credits:** These credits will help revitalize our local economies and produce another great 'Made in New York' product. Credits for small breweries will help small businesses grow and become tourism destinations, and allow farmers to diversify their crops and income.
- **Women's Workforce Bill:** The Department of Labor will improve services and training for women to help them qualify for higher paying jobs and careers.

Passed in the Assembly:

- **Minimum Wage:** The Assembly passed legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour, which would have raised the standard of living for some one million New Yorkers statewide. The increase did not pass in the State Senate.

For more information on any of these items, please call 723-9047.



Assemblywoman Lupardo discusses BAE plan with Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy and Binghamton Mayor Matt Ryan.

BAE

I worked with Governor Cuomo and my colleagues on legislation to provide tax credits for BAE Systems to help keep jobs in the Southern Tier. BAE Systems is a vital component of our local economy and an industry leader. Their decision to remain at Huron Campus is having the additional benefit of bringing new life to downtown Endicott and helping support the shops and restaurants that line Washington Ave.

Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (EAP)

Thinking of starting your own business? The Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (EAP) provides resources and assistance to entrepreneurs through various types of services. The program is delivered by the Broome Enterprise Triad, which is made up of Broome Community College, the Broome County Urban League and Broome-Tioga Workforce New York.

Services Provided by EAP:

- **Special Courses:** Courses in everything from creating a business plan to innovator workshops. For a free catalog of upcoming courses call 778-5012.
- **Consultation service for small businesses:** A free consultation service is offered for one-on-one business planning and analysis. Appointments are scheduled on an as-needed basis. Call 778-5012.
- **Client Advisory Group:** EAP has a group of local business representatives that meet once a month to assist clients with questions and concerns of their small business development.
- **Mastermind Groups:** Groups meet regularly with an experienced facilitator where they can examine their businesses' activities, decisions, goals and problems.



Binghamton University

Learn More About BU's Expansion

The Innovative Technologies Complex (ITC) at Binghamton University is expanding. A presentation on the growth and research being done at this facility can be found at the following website: www.binghamton.edu/watson/itcpresentation.

Free computer classes at the ATTAIN Lab

One of the most important factors in finding work is having adequate skills and training. I helped secure ongoing funding for the ATTAIN Lab located at the Broome County Urban League Tech Center on Exchange St. in Binghamton.

Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) is a network of technology laboratories located across New York State providing communities access to new technologies, education and technology training.

At ATTAIN you will:

- *Receive personalized pre-employment and job readiness training*
- *Increase employment opportunities and wages by using high quality vocational, customer service and life management software*
- *Supplement work experience by enrolling in basic skills, ESL, GED and computer literacy sessions*
- *Initiate online job searches*
- *Prepare and submit resumes to potential employers electronically*



The ATTAIN lab provides free computer classes to help people prepare for both school and the workplace. Topics include everything from ESL to GED preparation to Microsoft Office Certification and web design.

Call 607-772-4765 or visit the ATTAIN website at www.bul.sunyoc.org for more information.

Tax Cuts & New Jobs

In a special session held in December, we passed a tax cut for all New Yorkers and approved a new initiative to create jobs across the state. The New York Works Agenda aims to revitalize the State's economy. These efforts include capital grants to support employer projects and infrastructure investments necessary to attract new businesses and to expand existing ones.

More information can be found on the Empire State Development website at <http://www.esd.ny.gov/>

Help for Veterans

Veterans coming back after serving abroad are well-trained and highly skilled in a variety of different disciplines. Upon their return they face a difficult labor market, making it much harder to find employment despite their qualifications. I co-sponsored legislation that will help our servicemen and women reintegrate into civilian life by making additional resources available to help them find employment.

The legislation will require the Division of Veterans' Affairs to maintain and annually update the veterans' employment portal, which provides links to federal and state programs for servicemen and women.

Additional job resources for veterans can be found on the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs website at <http://www.veterans.ny.gov/>

Green Jobs Green New York

Green Jobs Green New York (GJGNY) is a statewide program that promotes energy efficiency in homes, small businesses and not-for-profit organizations. The program provides New Yorkers with access to free or low-cost energy audits, insulation services, low-cost financing and pathways to training for various "green-collar" careers.

For additional information, visit www.upgradeupstate.org/SouthernTier or contact Euphemia Martin at 607-723-0110 or emartin@ppefny.org

Employment & Training Resources

Binghamton University Continuing Education

PO Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902
P: 607-777-2792
<http://ceo.binghamton.edu>

Broome Community College

PO Box 1017
Binghamton, NY 13902
P: 607-778-5000
<http://www.sunybroome.edu/>

Broome-Tioga BOCES

435 Glenwood Road
Binghamton, NY 13905
P: 607-763-3300
<http://www.btboces.org/>

Broome-Tioga Workforce New York

171 Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
P: 607-778-2136
<http://www.broometiogaworks.com/>

Central New York Area Labor Federation

615 W. Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13204
P: 315-426-7836
<http://www.cnylabor.org/>

New York State Jobs Bank Website

<http://newyork.us.jobs/>

New York State Jobs Express Website

<http://www.labor.ny.gov/jobs/regional.shtm>

Service Corps Of Retired Executives (SCORE) Greater Binghamton Chapter

49 Court Street
Binghamton, NY 13902
P: 607-772-8860
<http://greaterbinghamton.score.org/>

SUNY ATTAIN Lab at the Broome County Urban League Tech Center

36 Exchange Street
Binghamton, NY 13901
P: 607-772-4765
<http://www.attain.suny.edu/index.php>