



For Immediate Release

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**SUNY Chancellor Zimpher Addresses Manufacturers at
Council of Industry Luncheon**

State University of New York Chancellor, Dr. Nancy Zimpher addressed over 250 Hudson Valley manufacturers and their associates at the Council of Industry's Annual Luncheon & Member/Associate Member Expo on Friday, November 6th at the Poughkeepsie Grand in Poughkeepsie, NY. The Council of Industry is the manufacturers association of the Hudson Valley and the Chancellor was there to kick off the statewide "Stand with SUNY" tour.

Chancellor Zimpher discussed the goals of the #StandWithSUNY campaign which is designed to secure state investment for SUNY in order to: Build base funding for the system's state-operated campuses, community colleges, statutory campuses, and teaching hospitals; grow the Investment and Performance Fund so that SUNY can bring evidence-based programs to scale; and extend NYSUNY 2020 to continue the challenge grants for campuses and keep tuition-setting authority with the SUNY Board while ensuring tuition flexibility by college sector. Chancellor Zimpher stated, "We need each other. We need to show the value investing in SUNY – the 'ROeI' – Return on Education Investment" The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States,

educating nearly 460,000 students in more than 7,500 degree and certificate programs on 64 college and university campuses, and online through Open SUNY. SUNY students and faculty across the state make significant contributions to research and discovery, resulting in nearly \$1 billion of externally-sponsored activity each year. There are 3 million SUNY alumni worldwide. Zimpher discussed the importance of internships and co-ops with many of the manufacturers in attendance. In conclusion of her speech the chancellor said, “We are good, but we are not good enough,” and detailed SUNY’s plans to increase not only enrollment but more importantly degree completion rates.

As part of the Expo portion of the event, twenty-five Council of Industry member and associate member companies displayed their company’s products and services to the manufacturers in attendance. The booths at the Expo ranged from personnel staffing and financing to health and safety to packaging and CNC machinery.

The Council also celebrated the graduates of the Certificate in Manufacturing Leadership program. This year nineteen individuals from eight different companies completed over 70 hours of training through the Council of Industry and Dutchess Community College in supervisory leadership and were honored at the luncheon when Chancellor Zimpher presented them with their certificates. The 2015 graduates are: from **Alcoa Fastening Systems** – Inna Mirutenko; from **ErtelAlsop** – Conor Sullivan; **Jabil Circuit, Inc.** – Jennifer Mullins, Joseph Chiarella, Myja Carter, Romain Eugene; **KonicaMinolta**- James Misar; **NERAK Systems, Inc.** – Sharon Wakefield and Simone Wakefield; **Pawling Corp.** – Tony Baruffo; **Selux** – Peter Stevens, Phyllis Horbert, Stanley Mayer; **Zumtobel Lighting** – Aki Owens, Chris Kutchma, Conor McGarry, Jonquil Mark, Kevin Buso, Patrick Smith.

Sponsorship makes the Annual Luncheon & Expo possible and the Council of Industry would like to

thank the Luncheon's major sponsor **First Niagara Bank** and supporting sponsors **The Chazen Companies, M & T Bank, Dutchess Community College, GEODIS** and **Allendale Manchinery Systems.**

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About the Council of Industry

The Council of Industry has been the manufacturer's association of the Hudson Valley since 1910. Our membership includes manufacturers and businesses related to the manufacturing industry throughout Southeastern New York. We are a privately funded not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to promote the success of our member firms and their employees, and through them contribute to the success of the Hudson Valley Community. We provide access to training, networking opportunities, advocacy and discounts on products and services for our members.