



For more than 70 years, the Westchester County Association has been the leading independent voice of Westchester's business community – fostering smart growth and economic vitality in the region.

WCA @ WORK: KEY INITIATIVES UPDATE

Growing the County's Bioscience Sector

WCA serves as a founding member of the County Bioscience Task Force– identified as a key strategic sector for economic development growth in the region. Capitalizing on a long-standing footprint in the region's healthcare infrastructure, the WCA is working to broaden its work to include the bioscience and biotech sector. A key component to growing the sector is identifying the talent needs and WCA's VP, Amy Allen, chairs the County task force's talent pipeline sub-committee. The most recent WCA All Access Healthcare program, produced in partnership with Westchester County, shined a spotlight on this growing sector by highlighting the existing components of the ecosystem and showcasing two biotech companies who recently chose to call Westchester home.

WCA Forms Talent Council to Address Regional Nursing Shortage

One of the key initiatives identified within the WCA Post-Pandemic Working Group report was the need to focus on the talent needs of our largest economic engine- the healthcare sector. The report highlighted the importance of developing a sustainable locally sourced talent pipeline to serve the needs of this key sector. The pandemic has exacerbated an already critical shortage of healthcare professionals as many have opted for retirement. Nursing was identified as an immediate need and a high-level talent council was formed – comprised of chief nursing officers and deans of local schools and run by WCA's Director of Workforce Development, Jason Chapin. The Council will focus on aligning nursing curriculum with employer needs; coordinating and increasing the availability of clinical training for nursing students; and enhancing dual degree opportunities, among other important items.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WCA's 2nd Annual Regional Workforce Development Summit Virtual Webinar

April 23 | 9-10:30 AM

Join experts in business, education, nonprofits, and government to discuss the mega shifts occurring in our region's talent ecosystem. A keynote address by NYS' Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul, will be followed by a panel discussion entitled "Leveraging the 'New Normal' in Training, Recruiting and Retention of Talent."

Visit westchester.org to sign up.

The WCA has a library of high-quality, content-driven events. To view past events and programs, visit our website: westchester.org/events or YouTube page: youtube.com/TheWCAssociation.

WCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



"Berkeley College values the Westchester County Association as a conduit to career opportunities for our students and a driver of public-private partnerships that enable higher education and businesses to work together to advance the workforce skills and economy in the communities we serve."
–Robert Miller, Campus Operating Officer

Berkeley College, founded in 1931, is a career-focused institution accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education that offers students Master's, Bachelor's, and Associate's degree and Certificate programs in more than 20 career fields. The College also offers continuing education programs to enhance career credentials.

WCA PLATINUM INVESTORS



WCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

—Michael N. Romita

ONE YEAR LATER

Since the very first days of the pandemic last March, the Westchester County Association (WCA) has pursued a two-pronged strategy to minimize its long-term impacts on the regional economy. First, fight the spread by supporting our robust healthcare sector and encouraging people to act responsibly. Second, work to secure marketplace liquidity for our businesses and nonprofits, enhanced benefits for displaced workers, and federal relief for state and local governments all on a grand scale.

Following months of intense advocacy by the WCA and other community leaders, Congress finally passed the American Rescue Plan – a massive \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus that, together with previous pandemic relief packages, completes the injection of almost \$6 trillion into the national economy. The American Rescue Plan alone secures \$12.6 billion in direct fiscal relief for New York's state government and an additional \$188 million for Westchester County. Still more will flow directly to our local towns and villages. This will shift ongoing state budget negotiations and should alleviate some need for destructive funding cuts and revenue raisers.

Prior to the certainty of federal relief, the State budget contemplated major cuts to healthcare in the midst of an ongoing medical crisis where our regional hospitals and other not-for-profit providers are already facing skyrocketing costs and a decline in elective demand. It is no longer necessary to balance the budget on the backs of the healthcare industry. If sector specific financial gaps are to be closed, for-profit insurance plans are presiding over record profits and, at the least, should be required to invest back into

community-based health programs. Elsewhere, flow through and direct federal dollars for schools, broadband initiatives, and other important priorities should alleviate some portion of financial stress and the corresponding need to legislate for programs financed entirely by the private sector.

As Congress pivots to infrastructure, we need to think strategically about where our greatest regional opportunities and challenges lay. The WCA is engaged in a multi-sector approach to our economic recovery and has identified the following four foundational pillars: healthcare and bioscience, real estate and housing; digital connectivity; and energy and sustainability.

These concentrations will carry over into federal infrastructure discussions. Think not just roads, tunnels, and bridges, but also stand-alone jobs initiatives, affordable housing incentives, broadband deployment, and clean energy technology.

Together, with our strategic partners, the WCA is advocating for and originating impactful initiatives in each of these key focus areas. We will succeed because of our proven ability to bring together a variety of stakeholders with the shared desire to work collaboratively and with purpose.

It is easy to focus locally. However, that is strictly tactical, and it is not enough. It is increasingly imperative to think about how the economic and developmental needs of our region fit into the national conversation. That is where we need to play.




Members of WCA's Board of Directors

Join the WCA

Membership in the Westchester County Association is one of the best investments you'll make for your business. When you join the WCA, you gain the full force of our formidable and proven advocacy infrastructure, working to advance your interests. You benefit from our relationships, our experience and our expertise across a full range of services designed to achieve our members' business objectives.

For more information, call Christina Barry, Manager of Memberships and Special Events, at 914.948.1860 or visit westchester.org/member-benefits.