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WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATED ANNUAL FALL LEADERSHIP EVENT: DRIVING WESTCHESTER FORWARD

Event welcomed new Chair of the Board Susan Fox and honored achievements of local businesses, and nonprofits positively impacting Westchester County on November 30, 2021

White Plains, N.Y. (December 2, 2021) – [The Westchester County Association](#) (WCA) hosted their Annual Fall Leadership Event: Driving Westchester Forward on November 30 at the Westchester Marriot in Tarrytown, New York. With over 400 people in attendance, the evening honored the achievements of organizations [Skanska](#), [Westhab](#), and [WMCHHealth](#), as well as outgoing WCA Chairman William P. Harrington Esq., Partner at [Bleakley Platt & Schmidt](#) who received the Alfred B. DelBello Visionary Award.

The event program featured remarks by Westchester County Executive George Latimer, President and CEO of the WCA Michael N. Romita, and retired President and CEO of WCA Bill Mooney. Incoming WCA Chair of the Board and President & CEO of White Plains Hospital, Susan Fox, also delivered special remarks followed by a networking reception with dinner by-the-bite.

“For nearly 70 years, the Westchester County Association has been the leading independent voice of Westchester’s business community,” said Michael Romita, President and CEO of Westchester County Association. “The WCA represents the foremost professionals in real estate, healthcare, finance & banking, hospitality, technology and other professional services; as well as municipalities, nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education and we were excited to celebrate those who support our values and are working tirelessly to drive Westchester forward.”

Theodora Diamantis, Vice President, Account Manager and Michael Viggiano, Executive Vice President accepted a WCA Leadership award on behalf of [Skanska](#), one of the largest project development and construction companies in the world. Skanska has led a series of high-impact projects right here in Westchester. For example, they recently developed the state-of-the-art Ambulatory Care Pavilion at WMCHHealth’s main campus in Valhalla. Moreover, Skanska embodies an organization dedication to sustainability - pioneering green construction practices, setting ambitious internal emissions reduction targets, and adhering to strong principals of corporate governance. Skanska was recognized for its contributions to our built environment while simultaneously grasping its impact on the natural environment.

Richard Nightingale, President & CEO accepted a WCA Leadership Award on behalf of [Westhab](#), a Yonkers-based nonprofit that is celebrating 40 years of providing affordable housing to communities in need. Sharing WCA’s vision of a better future for businesses and communities in Westchester, Westhab partnered with the WCA on the launch of Yonkers Zone (Y-Zone) a digital opportunity zone providing free internet access to approximately 250 to 400 need-based households in downtown Yonkers.

Recognizing the many accomplishments Westhab made this past year, they were the recipient of the 2021 Leadership Award.

Michael D. Israel, President & CEO accepted a WCA Leadership Award on behalf of [Westchester Medical Center Health Network \(WMCHealth\)](#). WMCHealth has been at the forefront of addressing global pandemics since its founding in 1917, when the Westchester Medical Center was established as an Army hospital caring for soldiers who had fallen victim to Spanish Influenza. Fast-forward 100 years and WMCHealth has again risen to the challenges presented by a pandemic. In addition to treating and testing thousands of patients safely during the pandemic, WMCHealth was appointed the vaccine HUB for the 7-county Hudson Valley, and was responsible for developing a Regional Implementation Plan, convening key stakeholders, ensuring equitable vaccine administration, and managing four regional task forces. . WMCHealth was recognized for its tireless efforts to keep the Westchester community safe and healthy.

William P. Harrington, Esq. Managing Partner at [Bleakley Platt & Schmidt](#) received the Alfred B. DelBello Visionary Award. The presentation of this award has been a special part of this program since 2015. Al served as WCA Chairman for 4 years, embarking on many groundbreaking initiatives in healthcare, economic development, and political advocacy. In honor of Al's legacy, WCA created an award in his name to be given to a deserving leader who carries out Al's vision of making our community a better and more economically viable one. Bill succeeded Al as WCA's Chair and continued to be a passionate leader of the initiatives that have become the hallmark of the WCA serving as the leader and champion of the WCA's Healthcare Reform efforts.

WCA is grateful for the generosity of the Driving Westchester Forward event sponsors, a list that includes Anatomy IT, AT&T, Bank of America, Berkeley College, Blade Urban Air Mobility, Bleakley Platt Attorneys at Law, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, Buzz Creators, CohnReznick, ConEdison, Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley, Inc., Corporate AV, Cuddy + Feder, DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, Ginsburg Development Companies, LLC, Grassi Advisors, Hospital for Special Surgery, Iona College, Lohud, M&T Bank, Martin Clearwater & Bell LLP, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Mercy College, Meridian Risk Management, Montefiore, New York Medical College, New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital, Northern Westchester Hospital, NRP Group, Open Door Family Medical Center, PCSB Bank, Phelps Hospital, PKF O'Connor Davies, RPW Group, Simone Development Companies, Skanska, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Streetworks Development, Sterling National Bank, Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, Wells Fargo, Westmed Medical Group, Westchester County Office of Economic Development, White Plains Hospital, Westchester Medical Center Health Network, Yonkers IDA.

Westchester County Executive, George Latimer said, "Tonight, we are happy to recognize the achievements of Skanska, Westhab and WMC Health, all of whom have made significant contributions to help move Westchester County forward in their own way. While Skanska has advanced the County's sustainability efforts, Westhab has provided affordable housing for communities in need, and WMC has helped us tackle the COVID-19 pandemic head-on. These organizations deserve our utmost praise and we want to celebrate those efforts tonight."

Incoming Chair of the Westchester County Association, Susan Fox said, "I would like to congratulate this year's honorees, Skanska, Westhab and Westchester Medical Center Health, for all that they have done to positively impact the lives of our neighbors across the Hudson Valley. Collaboration is at the heart of the work the WCA does and has been doing for the last 70 plus years, working across sectors

and industries to develop solutions that lift each other up. As we think about the future and what needs to be accomplished, we need to harness the energy of collaboration and ensure that we remain the most desirable place to live and work.”

Richard Nightingale, President and CEO of Westhab said, “I’m thrilled to be accepting the 2021 Leadership Award on behalf of Westhab and our team that works tirelessly every day to build communities and change lives. The Westchester County Association has been a tremendous partner to Westhab around affordable housing, digital equity, and building a sustainable community.”

Theodora Diamantis, Vice President and Account Manager at Skanska USA Building said, “At Skanska, we build for a better society in the communities we live and work. As a resident of Westchester County, I am passionate about participating in initiatives that affect change in my neighborhood, schools, hospitals, parks, and infrastructure. It’s a tremendous honor to be selected as a new WCA board member, and I look forward to working with this group of diverse and thoughtful leaders on smart, long-term solutions that will protect and advance our community.”

Michael D. Israel, President & CEO of Westchester Medical Center Health Network said, “I would like to thank the Westchester County Association for recognizing the extraordinary work of Westchester Medical Center and the WMCHHealth Network. Our workforce cared for hundreds of the most critically ill patients during the pandemic’s surge and rose to the occasion when asked by New York State to collaborate with hundreds of community partners as the vaccine distribution HUB for the Hudson Valley. WMCHHealth has coordinated the distribution of more than 2.5 million vaccine doses so far, and we supported the operation of all state-run mass vaccination centers in the Hudson Valley. I could not be prouder of these accomplishments, and it is an honor to have accepted this award from the Westchester County Association on behalf of WMCHHealth.”

Bleakley Platt & Schmidt shared the following comments, “Our firm is proud to recognize and commend our Partner and Firm Chairman, Bill Harrington, on being honored as the recipient of the 2021 Alfred B. DeBello Visionary Award. *“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”* —John Quincy Adams. Throughout his long and distinguished professional career, Bill has embodied Adam’s definition of a visionary leader, not only by successfully guiding our law firm, but by giving generously of his time and talent to advance the work and mission of the Westchester County Association. We also join in lauding the fine achievements and ongoing contributions of Bill’s fellow award recipients, Skanska, Westhab, and WMC Health Network.”

***To see photos stemming from the event please click through to the link [HERE](#).**

About Westchester County Association

The [Westchester County Association](#) is the preeminent professional leadership organization serving Westchester County and the region. The Association is committed to Smart Growth, economic vitality, and to providing a strong and clear voice for the collaborative interests of business and nonprofits. Its key objectives are to promote positive economic development in the region, foster business development, and provide its members with access to key public and private sector individuals, agencies, and organizations. For more information about the Westchester County Association, visit www.westchester.org.

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