Our collaborative achievements this year are a particular source of pride.

We launched the WCA’s Talent Council to bring regional healthcare employers together with the deans and faculty of our regional colleges to address nursing and other staff shortages. This enables lead executives of our regional employers to tap a local talent pool and fill positions during the job recovery. Our nationally recognized Y-Zone project will provide internet service to hundreds of households in Yonkers as we pilot an innovative public-private partnership to address the digital divide in Westchester. Our one-of-a-kind Clean Energy Portal is connecting hundreds of businesses with a wide array of programs to help them transition to a low carbon future. And, of course, we notched substantial advocacy victories in the areas of healthcare, real estate, housing, and funding for our local businesses and economy.

These efforts will continue in the new year as we bring together leaders from across the professional spectrum to drive economic growth by identifying and addressing our collective challenges and opportunities. For the WCA’s member organizations, it is about more than networking. It is results driven work.

2021 has been a year of significant accomplishment. From purpose driven committee work, to targeted advocacy at the national, state, and local level, to the invaluable connections we foster for our membership organizations, the Westchester County Association continues to set the professional agenda for the county and beyond.

MICHAEL N. ROMITA
President and CEO of the WCA

SUSAN FOX
Chair of the WCA
President and CEO of White Plains Hospital
The Westchester County Association is the most influential community of businesses and non-profits in the region. Together we strive to improve the health of our regional economy so that businesses will want to move here and grow and thrive.

MICHAEL N. ROMITA
President and CEO of the WCA

Advocacy

KEY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS SET THE PROFESSIONAL AGENDA:

Talent Council
Supporting Healthcare Providers
NURSE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DEANS OF AREA NURSING SCHOOLS COLLABORATE TO HELP SOLVE THE CRITICAL NURSING SHORTAGE

Real Estate Committee
Spearheading Smart Development
Protecting State & Local Funds for Smart Development
DEVELOPERS, BROKERS, LAND USE ATTORNEYS, ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS ADDRESS BEST PRACTICES FOR SMART DEVELOPMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Digital Connectivity
Linking Digital Opportunity to Business Growth
BROADBAND PROVIDERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND END USERS WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS WAYS TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL BROADBAND ACCESS AND CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Healthcare Consortium
Ensuring a Strong and Vibrant Healthcare Sector
THE LEADING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND ADVISORS MEET TO SET THE HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY AGENDA AND DEVELOP RELEVANT CONTENT PROGRAMMING

Energy and Sustainability
Charting the Path Forward
WCA’S NETWORK OF ENERGY PROFESSIONALS AND POLICY MAKERS ADDRESS THE NEED TO MOVE THE REGIONAL ECONOMY TO A CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE
BUILDING OUT A ROBUST BROADBAND SYSTEM THAT FOCUSES ON THE UNDERSERVED IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

The more people who can actively participate in the economy, the better. Digital access enhances opportunities for telehealth, e-commerce, on-line learning, and work-from-home productivity. It is a catalyst for economic expansion and improves the delivery of public services.

Y-Zone is more than an affordable new connectivity solution. It is a digital opportunity zone based on three core principles:

(1) digital equity driven by a coalition of committed local stakeholders, including local residents and program youth;

(2) widespread adoption through community input and engagement; and

(3) advancing digital fluency by providing device ownership and tech education as well as connectivity.

The result will be free or affordable internet access to need-based households in downtown Yonkers, New York for one year using CBRS spectrum.

Through the WCA, Westchester is now part of a groundbreaking national experiment. We will be plugged into organizations working on similar broadband projects from across the country and lessons learned will be used as a model for digital inclusion throughout the United States.

Y-Zone is more than an affordable new connectivity solution.

I am proud to work with the Westchester County Association to continue this important work of making sure that the Yonkers community has access to the reliable, high-speed internet that’s needed in our modern-day economy.

U.S. SENATOR OF NEW YORK CHUCK SCHUMER

LEVEL OF DIGITAL DISTRESS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY OVERALL: 21.4%

8% OF HOMES HAVE NO COMPUTER

Program seeks to: SERVE UP TO 500 HOUSEHOLDS in Yonkers

200 PEOPLE PROVIDED ACCESS PLUS:

- full digital EQUITY PACKAGE
- A DEVICE
- 15 HOURS OF tech education

OF those 500

8% OF HOMES HAVE NO COMPUTER
With the passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, New York now has one of the strongest climate change laws in the world. To meet these ambitious goals and become a leader in the fight for a clean energy future, businesses, real estate developers, asset managers, community organizations, and local municipalities will need to be proactive – and they will need connection to the proper incentives and information to make that happen. The Westchester County Association has created this dynamic and accessible on-line guide to available clean energy programs and incentives for New York’s businesses and professional organizations.

The WCA Clean Energy Program Portal provides organizations of all types with easy access to the programs and resources (financial and otherwise) that can be used to transition businesses and buildings to a low carbon footprint and a sustainable future. There is a broad variety of programs out there at the federal, state, and local level. Now the WCA brings them together in this digestible, readily available, and updatable information clearinghouse. Launched earlier this year, the portal has already connected hundreds of Westchester businesses to dozens of available programs.

Clean Energy Portal
An On-line Navigation Tool for Businesses and Property Owners


Workforce Development
Solving the Regional Workforce Needs Through Collaboration

Over the years, WCA has been at the forefront with a variety of workforce development programs and events from Recruit Westchester to Jobs Waiting to Regional Workforce Summits. This past year was no different.

The pandemic caused unprecedented economic and labor crises and WCA responded by creating the Talent Consortium to support the jobs recovery in Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties.

Promoting Job Opportunities & Recruitment Events
- Colleges • Universities • BOCES • Career Centers
- NYS Department of Labor • Empire State Development
- Hospitals • Healthcare • Banking • Wealth Management
- Nonprofits • Other Employers

Members have been sharing job information with about 20,000 students, alumni and other job seekers each month.

Every job filled benefits a job seeker, their family, their community, the employer, and the regional economy in Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties.

March 2021
Unemployment Rate
5.7%

December 2021
Unemployment Rate
2.6%
THE WCA SERVES AS THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY PARTNER FOR OUR REGIONAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS.

Lending our voice to a healthcare focused advocacy agenda garners the attention of lawmakers at the local, state, and federal levels. We have concentrated on securing adequate government funding, telehealth parity, opposing mandated staffing ratios, and reining in the oversized market influence of for-profit healthcare insurance carriers. In 2021, we:

- Battled the Healthcare Insurance Industry in an ongoing dispute with major regional healthcare providers to protect the rights of our hospitals, medical offices, and the insured.

- Helped Secure Grant Funding to reimburse healthcare providers for expenditures such as PPE, COVID-19 testing and tracing, vaccine distribution and infection prevention measures; premium pay for essential workers; and for employment programs targeting in-demand healthcare jobs.

- Hosted Numerous Public Events providing important and relevant content, often in partnership with the County Office of Economic Development including: “Healthcare Innovations and Next Gen Connectivity” and “Spotlight on Westchester’s Bioscience Ecosystem” as part of WCA’s proprietary “All Access Healthcare” series.

- Workforce Development Initiatives to address staff shortages exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Regionally, the healthcare and life science sector contributes more than $18 billion in ECONOMIC IMPACT and employs well over 70,000.

Westchester hospitals received $266M in CARES ACT FUNDING.

COMPONENTS OF WESTCHESTER’S BIOSCIENCE ECOSYSTEM

ACADEMIC, HOSPITALS, NON-PROFITS
- Academic / Research Institutions - Hospitals
- Disease / Patient Foundations - Nonprofit Organizations

LIFE SCIENCES COMPANIES
- Drug development - Medical device - Ingredients - AgTech
- Research products / instrumentation / equipment - Digital health
- Nutraceuticals / wellness products / OTC consumer products
- Contract research / manufacturing - Related Industry Services

BUSINESS SERVICES
- Environmental health and safety consulting
- Real Estate development / design / construction - Strategic Consulting
- Financial and Investment Firms - Testing / Medical labs
- Clinical Trials / Regulatory Consulting

Helping to Grow the County’s BIOSCIENCE SECTOR

Exploring Developments of the Future – Sustainability, Technology and Connectivity in Commercial and Residential Real Estate

How does the latest COVID-19 information inform your back-to-work decisions?

Spotlight on Westchester’s Bioscience Ecosystem

Future of Telehealth in Westchester and the region

Next generation of digital connectivity

Beltway Briefings – updates on political and economic developments

Answers to all (or at least some) of your Vaccine Questions

Mental Health: During a Pandemic – COVID Edition

Sustainability Management Course – organizational sustainability

Understanding & Addressing the Child Care Crisis in Westchester

Leveraging the “New Normal” in Training, Recruiting and Retention of our Talent

Understanding the Economics & Financial Models for Improved Housing Affordability

Biden Administration Clean Energy Agenda: Tackling Climate Change and What Does it Mean to New York Business?
In the news

Opinion: Montefiore-United Healthcare negotiations are a symptom. Industry greed is the preexisting condition

“THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION, THROUGH THE WORK OF ITS HEALTHCARE CONSORTIUM AND AS OUTLINED IN ITS RECENT STRATEGIC REPORT ENTITLED TOWARDS A STRONGER FUTURE, IS ACTIVELY WORKING TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD AND REIN-IN THE OVERSIZED MARKET INFLUENCE OF INSURANCE CARRIERS.” – MICHAEL ROMITA, PRESIDENT AND CEO, WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION (914INC.) :: JANUARY 22, 2021

WCA Reflects on Technological Advances Enabling New Economic Opportunities

“WHAT [5G] MEANS IN PRACTICAL TERMS IS DATA SPEEDS THAT WILL BE UP TO 100 TIMES FASTER THAN WHAT WE HAVE TODAY. LATENCY (OR LAG) PERIODS ARE BEING HALVED NOW, AND IN THE FUTURE WILL BE EVEN FASTER, WITH CONNECTION DENSITY VASTLY INCREASED, MEANING MORE DEVICES THAT CAN FUNCTION IN A GIVEN AREA.” – MICHAEL ROMITA, PRESIDENT AND CEO, WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION (914INC.) :: FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Grant set to bring internet access to households in downtown Yonkers

“HUNDREDS OF HOUSEHOLD IN DOWNTOWN YONKERS WILL SOON HAVE ACCESS TO FREE OR AFFORDABLE INTERNET DUE TO THE GRANT FROM U.S. IGNITE.” – (NEWS 12 WESTCHESTER) :: APRIL 1, 2021

This Westchester Community is Getting Free Internet Access

“THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION (WCA) IS ONE OF THE SEVEN ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT OVERCOME, DESIGNED TO SPEED UP THE DELIVERY OF BROADBAND SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.” – (WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE) :: APRIL 13, 2021

Opinion: Earth Day – To achieve our clean energy goals, the private sector must commit

“A CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION OBLIGATORY REQUIRES IMMENSE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION. IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENT AND URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED: IF WE ARE TO ADVANCE A CLIMATE AGENDA BEYOND THE POLITICAL, THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL NEED TO RECONSIDER TRADITIONAL NOTIONS THAT LINK ENERGY DEMAND WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH OR SHORT-TERM PROFIT WITH PROGRESS.” – (LOHUD) :: APRIL 21, 2021

The List: 28 Names You need to Know in Business

WCA’S PRESIDENT AND CEO MICHAEL ROMITA AND CHAIRMAN WILLIAM P. HARRINGTON ARE FEATURED AS TWO OF THE TOP NAMES YOU NEED TO KNOW TO DO BUSINESS IN WESTCHESTER. (914INC.) :: JUNE 9, 2021

‘Welcome Home Westchester’ campaign launched to address housing crisis

“MICHAEL ROMITA, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION, SAID THAT BUSINESSES ARE IMPACTED NOT ONLY WHEN THE HOUSING STOCK IS INADEQUATE BUT ESPECIALLY WHEN HOUSING COSTS ARE TOO HIGH,” STARYING LOCAL BUSINESSES OF WORKERS OR FORCING THOSE BUSINESSES TO PAY HIGHER SALARIES TO SUBSIDISE COMMUTING COSTS.

ROMITA SAID BUSINESSES SUFFER IF WORKERS ARE FORCED TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT. “WE CAN’T MAINTAIN A HEALTHY ECONOMY IF OUR TEACHERS, OUR FIRST RESPONDERS, NURSES, ACCOUNTANTS, ENGINEERS, AND OTHER WORKING CLASS FOLKS CAN’T AFFORD TO LIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY. YOU CAN’T CULTIVATE A REAL COMMUNITY IF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, THE ELDERLY AND THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS GO UNDER - SERVED. FOR A VIBRANT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, WE NEED TO WELCOME OUR MIDDLE - CLASS HOME TO WESTCHESTER.” – (WESTCHESTER BUSINESS JOURNAL) :: JUNE 25, 2021

Michael N Romita, President and CEO of the WCA, and Susan Fox, Chair of the Board, named in The 2021 Westchester Power 100

“CITY & STATE’S WESTCHESTER POWER 100 IDENTIFIES MANY OF THE COUNTY’S MOVERS AND SIZERS IN POLITICS, ORGANIZED LABOR, BUSINESS, HEALTH CARE AND OTHER SECTORS.” – (CITY & STATE) :: NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Our regional jobs recovery needs your support. Here’s why: Opinion

“BY JASON CHAPIN, WCA DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT


Pilot program offers free access to the internet in Yonkers

“WE THINK THIS IS A CRITICAL PILLAR OF IMPROVING THE REGIONAL ECONOMY AND FOR SMART GROWTH, THAT’S WHY WE WANTED TO GALVANIZE THESE COMMUNITIES AND SET AN EXAMPLE OF THE POSSIBLE,” SAYS MICHAEL ROMITA, CEO OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION. THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION IS SPEARHEADING THIS PILOT PROJECT, WITH A $450,000 GRANT FROM A NONPROFIT CALLED U.S. IGNITE. – (NEWS 12 WESTCHESTER) :: DECEMBER 14, 2021

The Westchester County Association Celebrates New Clean Energy Portal

“CEO AND PRESIDENT MICHAEL ROMITA DISCUSSES THE WCA’S RECENT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PACE UNIVERSITY ENERGY AND CLIMATE CENTER... THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION (WCA) RECENTLY PARTNERED WITH THE PACE UNIVERSITY ENERGY AND CLIMATE CENTER TO LAUNCH A CLEAN ENERGY PORTAL.” – (WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE) :: NOVEMBER 30, 2021
The WCA is about bringing business and non-for-profit leaders across different sectors together to identify issues and collaborate to find solutions that lift up the entire Westchester community.

SUSAN FOX  
Chair of the WCA  
President and CEO of White Plains Hospital

Westchester County Association drives economic development and advocacy in Westchester and the Hudson Valley Region.

ADVOCATING for our Members  
PROMOTING Community Engagement  
ADVANCING Smart Growth Policies  
STIMULATING New Business  
DEVELOPING Strong Connections  
CONVENING Thought Leaders and Stakeholders

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WESTCHESTER.ORG

View video to learn more about our core initiatives here
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=YWWXPJY-QS8