

Pattern's Progress

A monthly update on where Pattern has been and where we are going

HUDSON VALLEY
PATTERN
for
PROGRESS

Pattern Announces Exciting Lineup for Annual Reception on Nov. 8

NFL Great Boomer Esiason, Sports Journalist Bonnie Bernstein, and Broadway Star Syndee Winters to Join Event Honoring Ulster County Exec. Mike Hein, Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, and Stewart Airport's Ed Harrison



Boomer Esiason

Boomer Esiason, the former NFL star quarterback and successful sports radio host, will be the featured guest at Pattern's Annual Reception, on Wednesday, November 8 at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor. Esiason, who enjoyed a 14-year career in the NFL as a quarterback for the Bengals, Jets, and Cardinals, and since retirement has become a national figure in the fight against cystic fibrosis, will be on hand to celebrate Pattern's 52nd Anniversary. Tickets, and advertising and sponsorship opportunities for this exciting annual event are still available.

"Boomer is a legend in the New York sports world and for supporting charitable organizations, and we are thrilled that he will be part of this event," said Jonathan Drapkin, President and CEO of Pattern for Progress.

Joining Esiason and interviewing him at Pattern's reception will be renowned sports journalist Bonnie Bernstein, recognized by the American Sportscasters Association as one of the most accomplished female journalists in her field. In a 17 year career, she has covered MLB, NFL, NBA, and NCAA football games for ESPN, ABC, and CBS. Musical entertainment will be provided by Broadway singer Syndee Winters, who starred in *The Lion King*, and was most recently in in the wildly popular musical *Hamilton*, as well as on *Law & Order: SVU*.



Syndee Winters

Pattern will honor three Hudson Valley leaders at the event. Ulster County Executive Mike Hein and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther will be honored for their successful efforts to bring an expansion of the New York State film tax credit to the counties of the Mid-Hudson Valley. Expansion of the credit has sparked a surge in film productions, creating jobs and boosting the local economy. Ed Harrison, the General Manager of Stewart Airport, will be honored for his pioneering leadership of the Hudson Valley's airport which has added new international carriers, and seen a surge in passengers under his leadership.



Bonnie Bernstein

Individual tickets to the reception are available for \$165 for Pattern Members and \$190 for non-Members. Table discounts and sponsorships are also available for this memorable event. To buy tickets visit www.pattern-for-progress.org/events/annual-awards-reception/, or contact Robin DeGroat at rdegroat@pfprogress.org, or call (845) 565-4900.

Innovative Speakers Wow Crowd at Pattern's Annual Housing Forum



Diane Yentel, CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, speaks at Pattern's Housing Forum on Sept. 14

On Thursday, September 14, over 150 attendees at Pattern for Progress' Annual Housing Forum had a chance to hear from some of the leading voices in the field of affordable housing and community development.

Jonathan Rose, the President of the Jonathan Rose Companies, championed the creation of green affordable housing with access to transportation, social services, education and health care. Diane Yentel, the CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, shared the national perspective on trends in low income housing. Tiffany Manuel, vice president of Enterprise Community Partners, offered a wealth of specific strategies for how advocates of affordable housing can better frame the

conversation to skeptical elected officials and members of the public. A panel of experts from NeighborWorks America discussed strategies for accomplishing urban revitalization without gentrification and cited examples of successful efforts from the region and beyond.

Pattern's Joe Czajka presented an overview of the state of housing in the Hudson Valley and presented Pattern's Regional Housing Award for Excellence to Kevin O'Connor, the CEO of RUPCO, a Kingston-based nonprofit that advocates for quality, affordable housing and community development.



Joe Czajka presents the Regional Housing Award for Excellence to RUPCO's CEO Kevin O'Connor

Pattern's Progress - MEET THE BOARD



Larry Wolinsky
Partner, Jacobowitz and Gubits, LLP

How does your business help quality of life in the valley?

We are a general practice law firm known for our work on behalf of numerous municipalities and land developers throughout the Hudson Valley. We have done large scale performing arts, waterfront projects and many affordable housing developments all of which have contributed to the growth, diversity and sustainability of the Valley.

What new initiative helped your business grow in the past year?

We have a burgeoning practice assisting the growing Latino community in the valley with a focus on immigration law, Latino businesses, and employee rights for Latino workers.

The valley is constantly changing. What best practice would you share to make the most of that evolution?

Pay attention to demographics and allow those demographics to inform your business strategy and policies.

Briefly describe the Hudson Valley in five years, 2022.

A live/work/recreation/food destination with a stable economy and diversified work-force.

In addition to "work," "play" counts, too. Something fun folks should know about you or your business?

We are involved in numerous charitable efforts in support of not-for-profits throughout the Valley. The whole firm participates and we have a ton of fun doing that stuff.

Your advice on how to ensure a strong workforce?

Educate and train; pay a fair wage and be compassionate and flexible.

What was your first job?

City and Regional Planner for the Salem County (New Jersey) Planning Department.

Why have you chosen to support Pattern for Progress?

I have been a supporter of Pattern since the late 80s and a Board member and Officer within much of that time. Pattern offers a regional perspective on issues which cross jurisdictional and political boundaries. It identifies and tackles issues of importance to the entire region and moves the dial in a manner that improves quality of life in the Hudson Valley.



Mecca Santana
Vice Pres., Diversity & Community Engagement
Westchester Medical Center

Why are you, and your business, based in the Hudson Valley?

I decided to relocate to the Hudson Valley over 12 years ago to raise my family. Great schools, excellent quality of life, and a true sense of community were the primary factors for me. Westchester Medical Center was born in the Hudson Valley and has been serving this region as a health-care leader ever since. We have evolved into Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth), and as we celebrate our 100th anniversary this year, we are reminded of the vital role we play in the region and will continue to serve and support the Hudson Valley going forward.

How does your business help quality of life in the valley?

WMCHHealth is now a 10 hospital system spread throughout eight campuses spanning over 6,200 square miles of the Hudson Valley. Our expanded footprint allows us to ensure the delivery of high quality health care services and related supports to all of the communities we serve. We also employ over 12,000 people in the region, adding to the economic vitality of the Hudson Valley. WMCHHealth has embraced its role as a community support, invested in the collective success of the region.

What new initiative helped your business grow in the past year?

WMCHHealth expanded the only telemedicine program in the Hudson Valley – on the road, adding telemedicine capabilities to its mobile ICU ambulances that transport critically ill patients for specialized care at the health network's Valhalla campus. This investment in Hudson Valley healthcare fulfills WMCHHealth's promise to bring the high-quality healthcare resources to residents throughout the region.

The valley is constantly changing. What best practice would you share to make the most of that evolution?

We believe that robust community engagement and partnerships with external stakeholders is the most efficient, most effective way to have meaningful impact that is transformative and sustainable. Active collaboration, partnership, and greater alignment of efforts by all Hudson Valley Region stakeholders will ensure that the region continues to thrive.

In addition to "work," "play" counts, too. Something fun folks should know about you or your business?

In my spare time, I enjoy coaching my daughter's softball team. I was an athlete in my youth playing softball, basketball, tennis, and running track. Sports taught me to be competitive and to work successfully as part of a team. Both of these attributes have served me well professionally and they are qualities I want to reinforce in my daughter early and often.

What was your first job?

I began my legal career as an Assistant DA in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office where I prosecuted violent crimes, sex crimes, child abuse, domestic violence, and white collar criminal matters. While my professional realm has changed, my commitment to ensuring equity and access, increasing opportunities for all, and advocating for those who need it most – has remained steady.

Why have you chosen to support Pattern for Progress?

Pattern for Progress is guided by a mission that is closely aligned with the mission of our organization. Creating healthy communities is about more than just clinical wellness. It's about the role we play as a community anchor, supporting and partnering with our fellow Hudson Valley stakeholders to create wide-spread vitality: economic, environmental, academic, and social. It is this holistic approach that will ultimately strengthen and sustain our region.

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Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress
3 Washington Center, 2nd fl
Newburgh, NY 12550 (845) 565-4900
www.pattern-for-progress.org