CRIME, CASINOS, EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ROSTER FOR PATTERN’S NORTHERN COUNTY LEADERS BREAKFAST MARCH 23

Topics ranging from crime, unemployment, casino impacts, restructuring local governments, improving the region’s urban areas and more are up for discussion when the elected leaders of Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties join Pattern at 7:45 a.m. Wednesday, March 23, at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. The event regularly attracts business, nonprofit and academic leaders and will feature Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro; Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus; Ulster County Executive Mike Hein and Sullivan County Legislature Chair Luis Alvarez, who is the first Hispanic to serve as the chairman of a county legislature in New York State. “The County Executives breakfast is a fixed part of our annual events calendar,” said Heinrich Strauch who regularly attends and is a commercial loan officer with Jeff Bank. "It’s a great opportunity to get first-hand and up-to-date information from the leaders of the counties where we do the majority of our business, and to network with our business partners from around the region.” Event sponsors are: the Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative 825, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, the Construction Industry Council of NY, AKRF, The Chazen Companies, Frontier Communications, Holt Construction, Keane & Beane, Marshall & Sterling, SUNY New Paltz, Ulster Savings Bank and Westchester Medical Center Health Network. The cost is $45 for members; table pricing is also available. Register online, call 845-565-4900 or email rdegroat@pfprogress.org.

Pattern’s Czajka to Receive Dickinson Award

The Orange County Rural Development Advisory Corporation (RDAC) will honor Pattern’s Joe Czajka with its prestigious Alice Dickinson Award at its annual Legacy Luncheon this month. Czajka, a senior vice president at Pattern is also the executive director of Pattern’s Center for Housing Solutions and is considered a leading expert in affordable and market rate housing in the Hudson Valley and beyond. The Alice Dickinson Legacy Award was established in memory of RDAC’s co-founder and longtime executive director. Recipients of the Alice Dickinson Legacy Award embody Dickinson’s passion and devotion not only to RDAC, but also to the community at large. The luncheon takes place on March 31 at the Golden Manor Spruce Lodge in Montgomery. Contact RDAC for details.

Intern Spotlight: Calvin B. Wing

Calvin Wing has been making a dynamic impact at Pattern as an intern since late January. Calvin is just finishing up his master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin. Calvin grew up in Wisconsin. His work as an intern has been focused on providing assistance on Pattern’s work in infrastructure, housing and the Urban Action Agenda. Calvin lives in Warwick and has enjoyed getting to know and love the Hudson Valley.

AT PATTERN ROUNDTABLE, HUDSON VALLEY BOCES LEADERS DISCUSS INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION

Executives from BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) from throughout the Hudson Valley gathered at Pattern in Newburgh on March 9 to discuss the role of BOCES in how opportunities are offered to public school students. A focused brainstorming session with Pattern’s Education Advisory Group helped to shape Pattern’s upcoming research. In addition, the BOCES chiefs, education advisory group members and Pattern staff heard from Cornell University’s John Sipple on his work as a state-appointed monitor for the tension-filled East Ramapo School District in Rockland County. In East Ramapo, of 32,000 school-aged children, some 8,000 attend public school while the majority of the remaining 24,000 attend yeshivas. The public school board of education, however, is controlled by members of the rapidly growing Hasidic community. John, a member of the Pattern education advisory group, said there is much work to be done on building trust. The work of John and the monitors has helped separate fact from fiction.

Bill Hecht of Orange-Ulster BOCES, James Langlois of Putnam-Northern Westchester, Richard Hooley of Dutchess BOCES, and Bill Bassett of Orange Ulster BOCES (ret.) discuss funding as Rebecca DeLaCruz of Pattern staff looks on.

John Sipple

Clockwise, from top left: Regional county leaders Molinaro, Neuhaus, Alvarez, Hein.