CALLS FOR CHANGE
FOLLOW THE RELEASE OF REPORT ON HEALTHCARE & THE AGING

The July 17 release of the new Pattern report, “Aging in the Hudson Valley: Is the Healthcare System Ready?” drew widespread attention and precipitated calls for comprehensive change. The 94-page report outlined the many needs that confront the Hudson Valley’s healthcare system in the face of the aging population of baby boomers. The report was authored by Pattern Chief Strategy Officer March Gallagher. Dr. Daniel Aronzon served as lead advisor on the eight-month study and headed up a 17-member panel of healthcare professionals that advised and directed the research. The digital report can be found here http://pattern-for-progress.org/aging-healthcare/

While the nation as a whole faces this demographic shift, the Hudson Valley in particular will be deeply impacted by the aging boomers; for example, in Orange County, the 80+ population is anticipated to increase by 98.3% by 2040. Healthcare is one of the more severely affected fields. According to the report, the region “must look to convert at least 1,700 unnecessary hospital beds to other uses and increase skilled nursing facility capacity. It must significantly increase the delivery of home healthcare and work to provide better and more cost efficient end-of-life care.” The report also said, “the community must try to break down the artificial barriers between behavioral healthcare and traditional medical care as its seniors will require coordinated services.”

Coverage in media outlets from Kingston to White Plains followed the release of the report. Editorials in the region’s three daily newspapers — the Poughkeepsie Journal, the Times Herald-Record and The Journal News — underscored many of the report’s recommendations. “A population shift is occurring in the Hudson Valley ...” wrote the Journal News. “Healthcare needs to adapt.”

Revitalization Panel at Sept. 29 Housing Summit

A panel of four regional experts in community revitalization and the rejuvenation of vacant buildings will shed light on the ways they have breathed new life into urban areas at Pattern’s Sept. 29 Housing Summit. Kevin O’Connor of RUPCO, Ed Murphy of Hudson River Housing and Patrick Normoyle of Excelsior Housing Group will discuss their efforts to repurpose factories in three of the Hudson Valley’s old industrial neighborhoods. O’Connor is preparing to re-open the old Lace Mill in Kingston as 55 affordable housing apartments and working spaces for artists. Murphy is restoring the 1874 underwear factory in Poughkeepsie as affordable apartments and food service businesses. Normoyle is establishing workforce housing units in a former factory in the heart of downtown Middletown. Sean Fitzgerald, assistant commissioner of New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) will join the panel to discuss funding for such projects. Dan Marsh of NDC (National Development Council), the oldest community and economic development nonprofit in the nation, will moderate the panel. The panel is part of the annual Housing Summit hosted by Pattern’s Center for Housing Solutions. It will take place 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Anthony’s Pier 9, New Windsor. Jose Gonzalez, President and CEO of Federal Home Loan Bank of NY, will deliver the keynote. Registration and sponsorships are now available. Call 845-565-4900 to learn more.

Special Project for 2015 Fellows’ Pattern’s 50th Anniversary Apply Now-Spots Filling Quickly

It’s time to register for the upcoming Pattern Fellows program. This year, we’ve got something special in mind: The 2014-15 Fellows will work on a unique research project tied to Pattern's 50th anniversary year. The project will serve as a component to a larger initiative that Pattern staff will lead. This initiative will focus on retaining and attracting young people and families to Hudson Valley urban centers. Classes will gather from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. every other Tuesday from October through May at the Pattern office, 3 Washington Center, Newburgh. In addition to recruiting class members, Pattern is interested in hearing from businesses and nonprofits that would like to sponsor this upcoming Fellows program. Tuition for the 10-month class is $1,500 with some scholarships available. Pattern President Jonathan Drapkin leads the program with assistance from staff. Call 845-565-4900 for details.

IBM’s Anthony Yu Joins Board

Anthony Yu, Industry Executive for IBM’s Microelectronics Division, has joined the board of directors at Pattern for Progress. Mr. Yu is responsible for the development design and production of semiconductors for the US government and defense industry. Mr. Yu has a Ph.D. in Applied Physics / Materials Science from Cornell University and holds nine U.S. patents.

Mr. Yu was welcomed to Pattern at the July social event held at the Mohonk Preserve in Gardiner, hosted by Glenn Hoagland.

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