The Pattern for Progress Board of Directors unanimously adopted a new three-year strategic plan at the annual board meeting and retreat held in Newburgh on Monday, Dec. 9. The plan covers the 2014 – 2016 years and is the product of eight months of discussions and deliberations on the part of the Strategic Planning Committee, a group of board members led by Carl Meyer. The plan sets forth three main areas of focus: community development including infrastructure and housing; public education, with an eye on funding, results and alternative ways of delivering services. It also call for a project which looks through the lens of the first 50 years of Pattern to address the issue of declining population that now faces the Hudson Valley. That project will be incorporated into a larger plan recognizing the 50th anniversary of Pattern which was founded in 1965.

CONGRESSMEN RETURN for Across the Aisle – The Conversation Continues
More than 100 business, education and nonprofit professionals gathered at Marist College on Jan. 27 for the second “Across the Aisle” conversation with Congressmen Chris Gibson and Sean Maloney. Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion (at far right) and Pattern’s Jonathan Drapkin (at far left) moderated a panel discussion on topics that included the farm bill, the region’s aging infrastructure and on the jobs outlook. Orange County Trust Co., NORMET and Marist College were sponsors of this special event.

24 JOIN NEW FELLOWS CLASS
The 2013-14 session of Pattern Fellows commenced in October with 24 members. Initial guest speakers included Mike Sullivan of the Orange County Partnership and Larry Gottlieb of Hudson Valley Economic Development Council. Then, Barry Lewis of the Times Herald-Record, John Penney of the Poughkeepsie Journal and Allison Dunne of WAMC discussed the region’s news media. Most recently, the Fellows heard from public school superintendents in the Kingston, Middletown and Warwick districts (above). The Fellows are working on three projects for the year: studying the possibility of a Youth Enclave in Poughkeepsie; finding ways to make educational use of time spent on school buses; examining ways to improve public health in Sullivan County.