Pattern’s Outreach Continues on Out of Alignment Report

Pattern President and CEO Jonathan Drapkin has been meeting with Hudson Valley stakeholders – elected officials, chambers of commerce, business leaders, and others – to discuss the groundbreaking Out of Alignment report and to encourage conversations about solutions to the challenges that the study highlights.

The wide-ranging, year-long study released in October found that the Mid-Hudson Valley has reached a demographic cliff that is affecting the socio-economic fabric of the region. The research took a comprehensive look at various regional trends, including flat population growth, declining school enrollment, stagnant wages, the shrinking labor force and the rising cost of living. It also examined what these trends mean for the region in the next decade.

Over the last two months, Drapkin has held 15 meetings with leaders in the region, and he discussed the feedback during Pattern’s December board meeting. Drapkin said leaders described the report as “a punch in the gut” but a realistic assessment as to where we are today.

“All these discussions help identify solutions and chip away at the problem,” said Drapkin. “Our job is to be an honest broker and help provide a vision for the future.”

Drapkin plans at least a dozen more meetings in the coming weeks. If you wish to have a presentation please contact Robin DeGroat at rdegroat@pfprogress.org. Based on feedback and discussions during these meetings, Pattern will release Part II of the report, which will include recommendations to tackle the Mid-Hudson Valley’s challenges. The research was funded by a grant from Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.

Pattern Hosts Basecamp Kingston for Young Professionals

Pattern for Progress’ LIFT/HV hosted Basecamp Kingston, a regional networking event that drew approximately 75 young professionals from across the Hudson Valley.

The event on Wednesday, December 11, was a unique opportunity to engage with a diverse panel discussion on “Leading from Where You Are.” It featured Hudson Valley leaders sharing their perspective on life, business and community, and it was held at Capital Tavern in Kingston.

The panelists included:
- **CHRISTOPHER SHORT**, executive director of the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce
- **JEREMY PHILIPS**, owner of Schatz’s Pub & Bier Garden of Poughkeepsie and New Paltz
- **LEAH FELDMAN**, vice president for Community Programs for Family Services
- **L’QUETTE TAYLOR**, founder of Community Matters 2

During the event, Pattern collected pantry items for the food pantry at Family Services, Inc. Everyone
Pattern for Progress created the regional initiative LIFT/HV in the fall to nurture, build and grow the number of young professionals in the Hudson Valley. LIFT/HV creates programming and initiatives focused on engaging young professionals in the region and providing them with a voice, opportunities and the ability to shape the future of the region. For more information contact Evan Menist at emenist@pfprogress.org

Pattern for Progress Holds Infrastructure Roundtable

Pattern held its last infrastructure roundtable of 2019 on Monday, bringing together stakeholders from across the region to discuss the Local Government Data Project, a shared information system that enables highway departments to collect comprehensive data about its accomplishments and costs to facilitate sound budgeting.

Ari Epstein, chief data officer at New York State Department of State and Bob LaColla, Town of Fishkill supervisor were the main presenters.

Mary Beth Bianconi, from Delaware Engineering, and Andy Stewart from Pattern for Progress co-chaired the roundtable.

Pattern holds quarterly roundtables that gather the region's key infrastructure stakeholders—from planning and civil infrastructure to construction, and more—in a discussion format to share best practices and formulate ideas for advancing the region's infrastructure needs.

Pattern Hosts Panel Discussion for Municipalities on Capital Planning

Pattern for Progress hosted an event on November 25, as part of its UAA training sessions, that offered municipal employees an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities local governments face in their efforts to develop greater capacity for asset management and capital planning.

Four presenters drew on their experience in city management, fiscal oversight and the private sector to provide insights into how asset management and capital planning are actually taking place in the Hudson Valley. The City of Beacon was used as a case study.

The four panelists included:

- Elliott Auerbach, New York State deputy comptroller for the Division of Local Government and School Accountability
- Mary Beth Bianconi, partner at Delaware Engineering
- Anthony Ruggiero, administrator for the City of Beacon
- Tracy Hitchen Boyd, New York State assistant comptroller for the Division of Local Government and School Accountability

The panel was moderated by Andy Stewart, senior vice president for research and analysis at Pattern for Progress. The event was held at Kaplan Hall Great Room at SUNY Orange’s Newburgh campus.

For more information about Pattern and our initiatives visit our Website