



**For Immediate Release**

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**SUNY Chancellor Zimpher Addresses Manufacturers**  
**at Council of Industry Luncheon**

State University of New York Chancellor, Dr. Nancy Zimpher addressed a crowd of almost 200 Hudson Valley manufacturers and their associates at the Council of Industry's Annual Luncheon & Member/Associate Member Expo on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Powelton Club in Newburgh, NY. The Council of Industry is the manufacturers association of the Hudson Valley and the Chancellor was there to discuss the Trade Adjustment Act grant to support advanced manufacturing, the SUNY 2020 strategic vision and other efforts by SUNY to provide a skilled workforce and promote economic development in the state.

Dr. Zimpher became Chancellor of the State University of New York, the largest comprehensive system of higher education in the nation, in 2009 and began her work

with a statewide tour of the 64 SUNY campuses. This was the first phase of a system wide strategic planning process. This plan, called The Power of SUNY, was launched in April 2010, with the central goal of harnessing SUNY's potential to drive economic revitalization and create a better future for every community across New York.

As her "Power of SUNY" plan is put into action, Chancellor Zimpher is leading a diverse set of new initiatives at SUNY in several key areas, including research and innovation, energy, health care, global affairs, and the education pipeline. The Chancellor explained the role SUNY can play in helping manufacturers succeed in New York including the recent US Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Act grant to support advanced manufacturing. She also called upon manufacturers and the Council of Industry to partner with the SUNY system to provide internships and co-op programs for students. The Council of Industry's role in executing the grant is to promote the training and educational opportunities to potential participants and to involve manufacturing employers in the process. The Chancellor also discussed the new term "systemness" which is a new way of looking at SUNY as a whole greater than the parts that make it up.

A variety of Council members and associate members participated in the Expo portion of the event and displayed their company's wares to the local manufacturers who attended the luncheon. The products and services at the Expo ranged from insurance and electricity to corrugated packaging and refrigerated wine racks. Overall sixteen companies participated in the Expo.

The Council also celebrated the 15th graduating class in the Manufacturing Leadership

program, consisting of a record twenty-two individuals from nine different companies. These hardworking individuals have completed over 70 hours of training through the Council of Industry and Dutchess Community College in supervisory leadership and were honored at the luncheon when Chancellor Zimpher presented them with their certificates. The 2012 graduates are: from **Alcoa Fastening Systems** – Vince Carchidi, Claire Mullady, Rick Olund, Kali Pierson; from **Balchem Corp.** – Mike Lepes, Mike Majkowski, Chris Walicki; **The Council of Industry** – Alison Butler; Eastern Alloys – Jamie Negron; **FALA Technologies, Inc.** – Mike Senecal; **MPI, Inc.** – Michael Couey, Matt Dina, Dan Phillips, Aaron Phipps, Rick Schroeder; **Schatz Bearing Corp.** – John Hilal, Edward Mejorado, Baljit Singh, David Winchcombe, Sandra Zapata; **Selux** – Sarah Hendrickson; **Viking Industries** – Thorn Winter.

Sponsorship makes the Annual Luncheon possible and the Council of Industry would like to thank the Luncheon's major sponsor **Direct Energy Business** and supporting sponsors **TD Bank, The Chazen Companies, The Reis Group, MPI** and **Alcoa Fastening Systems.**

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## **About the Council of Industry**

The Council of Industry has been the manufacturer's association of the Hudson Valley since 1910. Our membership includes manufacturers and businesses related to the manufacturing industry throughout Southeastern New York. We are a privately funded not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to promote the success of our member firms and their employees, and through them contribute to the success of the Hudson Valley Community. We provide access to training, networking opportunities, advocacy and discounts on products and services for our members.