

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
“REACHING FOR NEW HORIZONS” AT 2019 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Business and Community Leaders Invited to Participate in Westchester-Putnam  
Workforce Development Board’s Annual Breakfast Meeting  
June 14 — Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Tarrytown, NY**

**(WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM)** — Westchester County Executive **George Latimer** and Putnam County Executive **MaryEllen Odell** invite businesses, agency partners, community youth organizations, and civic and educational leaders from across all sectors, to participate in Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board’s Annual Meeting on Friday, June 14 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Tarrytown, NY.

This year’s meeting theme “Reaching for New Horizons” communicates the Board’s ongoing quest to reach for new solutions, design new programs, and collaborate more extensively to ensure a robust local workforce that will attract and retain businesses and drive economic development. It will focus on the critical issues like the talent shortage, skills gaps, and alternative career pathways, particularly in S.T.E.A.M. and other in-demand sectors.

The morning program will feature **Melinda Mack**, *Executive Director of the New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals (NYATEP)*, as keynote speaker who will introduce these topics and moderate a panel discussion entitled “Building a S.T.E.A.M. Powered Workforce.”

**The panelists are:**

- **Jill Lansing**, *Assistant Vice Chancellor & Director for Education Pipeline Initiatives*, The State University of New York;
- **Amber Mooney**, *Director of Workforce Development*, The Business Council of New York State;
- **Lisa Purcell**, *Senior Staff Scientist, Infectious Diseases; Scientific Director*, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

“The 2019 Annual Meeting will feature an interesting panel of experts who will share insights, challenges, and ideas to bridge the talent shortages and skills gaps impacting businesses and will explore ways to reach area youth and open their eyes to opportunities in S.T.E.A.M. and other in-demand sectors, all of which will drive economic development in Westchester and Putnam counties,” states Executive Director Thom Kleiner. “The Board is particularly proud of the collaborative efforts among all the Network Partners this past program year, which will be celebrated at the Annual Meeting and detailed in the 2018-19 WPWDB Annual Report.”

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board’s annual meeting is a great opportunity to highlight the programs and services we can provide to help our businesses and economy thrive. In Westchester County, we are laser-focused on uniting our business community with our many agency partners, youth and civic organizations, and educational leaders to help all businesses – large and small – achieve. By solidifying a strong and dynamic workforce now, we can ensure a prosperous future. I thank Regeneron Pharmaceuticals for hosting this important event.”

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said: “We thank Regeneron Pharmaceuticals for hosting the 2019 Annual Meeting. Connecting the business community with the Network’s many partner organizations will certainly bear fruit in preparing our future workforce for the job skills needed to ensure the region’s continued economic growth. We are excited to hear from the distinguished panelists as they discuss pressing topics that challenge workforce development. ”

Executive Director, NYATEP, Melinda Mack said, “With the Governor’s statewide commitment of \$175 million for workforce development, Westchester-Putnam has an unprecedented opportunity to innovate how they connect job training, post-secondary skill development and employment to the ones who need it most. Inclusive conversations from all stakeholders, including economic development and business partners, ensure job training and skill development accurately reflect the needs of the region for today and tomorrow.”

There is no cost to attend and breakfast will be served. The Annual Meeting will take place at The Nucleus conference facilities at Regeneron’s North Campus. **Due to Regeneron's security requirements and room capacity, all attendees must register in advance by June 12th. THERE WILL BE NO WALK-INS OR ON-SITE REGISTRATIONS.** For registration and further information, visit: <https://wpwdb-2019-annual-meeting.eventbrite.com>.

**THE WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WPWDB)** is comprised of leaders and staff of state and county government agencies, non-profits, public education, and the private sector who work together to strengthen the partnerships between business, education, and service providers within the “Career Center Network” to meet the needs for a skilled workforce. The WPWDB pursues funding opportunities and develops model programs and leading-edge practices. The “Network” is made up of four Career Centers (White Plains, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and Carmel) as well as partner agencies that provide state-of-the-art technology, training, resources, and services to youth, adults and employers. For more information, visit [www.westchesterputnamonestop.com](http://www.westchesterputnamonestop.com).

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**WESTCHESTER COUNTY**, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just under a million. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester County is known for top-notch public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com).

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