

--Governor Paterson Addresses Local Business and Community Leaders in East Syracuse

On June 8, Governor Paterson unveiled "Bold Steps to a New Economy: A Jobs Plan for the People of New York" at the Sensis headquarters in East Syracuse, NY. Following are the highlights from his speech:

- Dr. Ellis Rubinstein, the President of the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), introduced the Governor. Dr. Rubinstein also acknowledged the Board of Governors for NYAS, including Chancellor Nancy Cantor.
- Governor Paterson opened his speech by stressing that NYS has all the resources it needs for meaningful collaborations. He stated that we need to change the culture of research and he is hoping that New York can be a catalyst for change throughout the country.
- The recession exposed our weaknesses, namely auto part manufacturing and Wall Street. Gov. Paterson emphasized that he sounded the alarm very early on to warn everyone of the impending downturn in the economy. He has cut spending in government and reminded everyone that we should not balance the budget on the backs of those most vulnerable. He highlighted his work to expand job creation, access to food stamps, and unemployment benefits.
- He cited the 5 I's: Infrastructure, Intellectual Capital, International Affairs, Investment and Innovation. In particular, Gov. Paterson stressed innovation, reminding everyone that NY has been the birthplace of the first steamship, the first passenger train, radio and television broadcasting, and the first fighter plane to break the sound barrier.
- Areas in particular that need more investment are electric/battery-run cars, renewable energy, cancer/diabetes research, stem cell research and improved agricultural products/processes. He also pointed out that equal opportunity is an enhancement to our business climate, not just a legal requirement.
- He emphasized education (PreK through graduate school) as an area in need of improvement, particularly in those districts that have been systematically underfunded. We need a pre-eminent public university system. We also need to invest in broadband across the state and target resources to be used for infrastructure.
- Energy is the greatest job creator in the state. Industries need to learn to accommodate workers (i.e. teach unemployed auto workers to find jobs/apply their skills in the "new" green industry).
- Gov. Paterson was particularly concerned with the state of the electric grid, calling it antiquated and obsolete, and saying it wastes energy and increases costs as well as pollutants. He stressed that we need to reconstruct the electric grid which hasn't been touched in years. He tasked NYSERDA with implementing smart grid development programs.
- Gov. Paterson pointed out the state's advancements in stem cell research. In 2006, NYS was 48th in the country in terms of research. Now, the state is second only to California. \$118M was invested last year in this area alone.
- Gov. Paterson then announced the Innovative Economy Matching Grant proposal, stating that NYS will match 10% of federal stimulus money received for innovative projects. These programs should drive employment through the commercialization of technology.
- Gov. Paterson continued to emphasize that this innovation must be linked to job creation. He mentioned his Education-Industry Partnership Task Force and introduced President David Skorton from Cornell as the task force leader.
- The Governor closed by referring to the rising sun on the New York State flag, emphasizing the need to renew our vigor and create a better future.