

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER - 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August saw the birth of an exciting new joint venture called START-UP Genesee that is designed to foster entrepreneurship in Genesee County. A wide range of local economic development agencies have teamed up to develop a business assistance network dedicated to providing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs with guidance on starting, growing and succeeding in the business world.

The first START-Up Genesee event was a launch party held on August 31 at the Harvester Center. It was only fitting that the launch party was held at the Harvester Center since the Mancuso family created the world's first business incubator on this very site over 60 years ago.

As a follow-up to the launch party, an entrepreneurial series entitled "Think & Drink" has been scheduled on a bi-monthly basis at locations throughout Genesee County. These events will allow anyone who has any interest in starting a business to come and learn more in an informal, casual setting.

START-Up Genesee is a result of a collaborative effort between a number of businesses involved in economic development including the Genesee County Economic Development Center, the Mancuso Business Development Group, Batavia Development Corporation, Genesee Community College, the Downtown Batavia Business Improvement District, the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Rochester Enterprise and Invest Buffalo Niagara.

This collaboration between so many agencies is extraordinary and one of the strengths of our region's economic development efforts. I have talked with many of my Chamber colleagues throughout the state and this type of cooperation does not always occur in other regions.

START-Up Genesee has also been fortunate to secure great sponsors who believe in its entrepreneurial mission including Tompkins Bank of Castile, Merrill Lynch, Free Maxick the University at Buffalo's New York State Center for Excellence and Canandaigua National Bank & Trust.

Sometimes being an entrepreneur with a business feels like you are alone on an island. With START-Up Genesee, area entrepreneurs will have a wide array of partners to help nurture and cultivate their business success.

Have a great month!

Sincerely,

Tom Turnbull

Chamber President