

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PEGGY COLEMAN NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF TOMPKINS CHAMBER

With three decades of experience, Coleman brings expertise and community connections

ITHACA, NY (March 3, 2025) – Peggy Coleman is taking the reins as the next president and chief executive officer of Tompkins Chamber.

The Tompkins Chamber vice president and director of Visit Ithaca for the last 8 years, Coleman had served as interim president of the organization since October 2024. Her leadership will continue to advance the Chamber’s mission of fostering sustainable economic growth, advocating for its diverse membership, and enhancing quality of life in Tompkins County.

After a thorough and thoughtful search, the Tompkins Chamber Board of Directors chose Coleman from among 100 highly qualified applicants for the position.

“While we could have simply named someone to serve as the next president and chief executive officer of the Chamber, the search committee felt it was essential to live the organizational values in performing a national search for the position,” said Aly Evans, Tompkins Chamber board chairperson. “The dedicated members of the committee, representing the education, nonprofit, and large and small business sectors, through the months-long search process, ensured with the choice of Peggy, Tompkins Chamber will have a highly qualified, experienced and energetic leader.”

With more than three decades of experience in economic development, tourism and community engagement, Coleman brings a wealth of knowledge and deep commitment to the values of Tompkins Chamber. She has been a driving force in advocating for local businesses, forging strong relationships with elected officials at all levels, and securing critical funding to support regional economic initiatives. During her tenure as director of Visit Ithaca, she oversaw significant growth, including a 93% increase in the CVB’s budget and more than \$1 million secured in grant funding.

“Peggy’s dedication to the Chamber’s mission and her proven leadership make her the ideal choice to guide our organization forward,” said Kelli Cartmill, who led the search committee and served as past chairperson of the Chamber’s Board of Directors. “She embodies our vision of an inclusive and vibrant economy and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to collaboration, advocacy, and member engagement.”

As President and CEO, Coleman will oversee the Chamber’s strategic initiatives, economic development programs, and community partnerships, while ensuring the organization remains a steadfast advocate for its members. She will also lead efforts to advance the Chamber’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring that economic opportunities are accessible to all.

“I am honored to serve as President and CEO of the Tompkins Chamber and to continue working alongside our dedicated team, members, and partners,” said Coleman. “Our Chamber plays a vital role

in strengthening the local economy, supporting businesses of all sizes, and ensuring Tompkins County remains a dynamic and welcoming place to live, work, and visit. I look forward to championing our mission and driving meaningful progress for our community.”

For more information about the Tompkins Chamber and its initiatives, visit tompkinschamber.org.

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About the Tompkins Chamber

With over 700 members, the Tompkins Chamber is dedicated to making Tompkins County a great place to live, work, and do business. We are a forward-thinking organization dedicated to promoting business in our region by being the community's nexus. The Tompkins Chamber works to forge links between and among business and government, community organizations, residents and institutions. The mission of the Tompkins Chamber is to foster sustainable economic growth through service to our members, strategic advocacy, workforce development, destination marketing, and quality-of-life investments.