

2009 Community Conversation on Construction A Community Conversation on Construction Workforce Development and the New Green Industry of Central New York

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Program Concept and Approach

Dialogue, the capacity of members of a team to suspend assumptions and enter into a genuine thinking together...*Dialogue* differs from the more common notion of *discussion* which has its roots with percussion and concussion, literally a heaving of ideas back and forth in a winner take all competition. *Peter Senge*

The spirit in which we invite you to participate in this program is very much explained by the notion of a *dialogue*. We invite you -- friends and colleagues, educators and entrepreneurs, scholars and employers, all of us with a stake in the building industry -- to engage in genuine and creative thinking about the construction industry's employee pipeline and career ladder maps.

This program is comprised of two plenary sessions and a participant roundtable discussion. The **first plenary session** includes a lead **speaker** who, in about 20 minutes, will address that session's topic. They will be followed by **panelists** who provide further educational, community and business perspectives (about 5 minutes each).

In the **participant roundtable discussion** all participants will have an opportunity for small-group dialogue about the program's topics. Each roundtable will have a **facilitator** and a **reporter**. The number of people in each roundtable will be determined by the total number of participants.

The **second plenary session** will begin with a focus on case studies relevant to the conversation and will follow with reports from each of the **participant roundtables** (about 2 - 3 minutes each, again, depending upon the number of participants), along with a summary/synthesis from a selected moderator and speaker. **Roundtable reporters** are asked to summarize the key issues and action items generated.

The themes around which this Forum is organized are:

1. *What are the near- and long-term challenges associated with the construction industry's workforce development in the current global and local marketplace?*
2. *How can we further leverage our region's considerable educational, business, and community resources to support the construction industry of Central New York's employee pipeline and career ladder needs: An action agenda.*

Please note: the program is available on the Web at:

All of us involved in this program appreciate your active participation and contributions. We look forward to working with you.

Chuck Spuches