

# Workforce Development Board

Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties

Suite 200 D, 333 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801

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Mr. Kevin J. Tollisen, Chief Elected Official  
Saratoga County Board of Supervisors  
Saratoga County Municipal Offices  
40 McMaster Street  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

April 4, 2019

Dear Mr. Tollisen:

My name is Mike Perez and I am the Chair of the Saratoga – Warren – Washington Workforce Development Board (SWW WDB). As the Chair of the Board, it is not lost on me that the effectiveness of our organization hinges on partner relationships within the system to carry out the mission of the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act legislation. In understanding the importance and relevance of the partners associated with our work, I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Board to assess the possibility of our Board's executive team meeting with you to discuss the work of the Board, our system and the impact we are attempting to effect on our region's workforce and business community. If this invitation is acceptable, you may wish to include others in an arranged meeting beyond yourself.

As a veteran member of the Board who has recently moved into the position of Chair, I have a pretty firm understanding of how the County CEO's fit into New York State's workforce system. However, I am not pleased to admit that in my time on the Board, I don't recall a situation when representatives of our Board have reached out to the County Elected Official to discuss items of common interest, to share perspectives on the needs of the area's workforce or to discuss the direction the Board is taking in its legislatively driven system oversight role.

Given this, the Executive Team, Executive Director and I have decided that it is a good time to seek a meeting with you to discuss all of the items above and specifically, the new strategic plan we have developed for our region. It makes sense to us to share our plan and intentions to increase the effectiveness of our system with our key stake holders to ensure we fully embed their important thoughts into our work plan. At the very least, we want to be sure you are aware of what we are trying to accomplish on behalf of the three Counties that make up our workforce area.

We believe this to be an important first step as the role of the County and CEO are important in our system. Please know that we are very excited about the direction the private sector lead board is moving and encourage the input by all organizations represented within our system. Most importantly, if establishing a meeting is acceptable, please email our Executive Director, Douglas Leavens at [dleavenswdb@gmail.com](mailto:dleavenswdb@gmail.com) so that the details of a meeting can be worked out.

Sincerely,

Michael Perez, Chair  
SWW Workforce Development Board  
333 Glen Street  
Glens Falls, NY 12801

Cc: Jenniffer McCloskey, Saratoga County Career Center Director