Where Do We Go from Here?
Thanks to our Sponsors

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- Federal Reserve Bank of New York
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- New York State Center for Rural Schools
The Role of Colleges and Universities in Regional Development

Key Points

• Cornell’s mission as a Land Grant Institution is to apply science to the practical aspects of life, including economic development.
• We do this through research and the community-based work of Cornell Cooperative Extension.
• The work we do has changed from primarily agriculture-focused to technology transfer, but this practical application is still our mission.
• Our sphere of influence, like other higher education institutions, is in concentric circles:
  – City in which we are based, Region, State, Nation, International.
• We work with partners within each of these spheres.
• What we need to focus on in the future:
  – Getting information out faster.
  – We are good conveners but need to convene other institutions of higher education more regularly.
  – Providing better information.
The Changing Social, Economic, and Demographic Landscape of Upstate New York

Key Points:

• Change is the norm

• “Demography is not destiny”

• Opinion sways policy

• Where emotions are strong on issues, data is often irrelevant

• Thus, understanding both data and opinion are important

• Conversations which include both are critical in creating opportunities and addressing challenges
Workshop on Agriculture and Food Systems

- **Key Themes**
  - Agricultural Sector Important but not largest Sector in New York
  - Need to focus on manufacturing and Agriculture working together
  - Regional vs. State

- **Key Policies**
  - Regulations on agriculture

- **Key questions (unresolved)**
  - Are we moving away from traditional forms of agriculture?
  - Where do consumers want their food coming from?
  - Who is willing to invest in small farmers and their farms?

- **Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)**
  - What are emerging areas that represent new opportunities for farms?

- **Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)**
  - Politicians
  - Farmers
  - Consumers
  - Business Leaders
Workshop on Local and Regional Governance

• Key Themes
  – Actual government consolidation vs. functional consolidation
  – Structural change and government accountability
  – Importance of local, regional government organizations
  – Documenting and sharing government success stories

• Key Policies (that inhibit or assist)
  – Policies pertaining to property tax caps or reduce services
  – Decisions regarding government dissolutions

• Key questions (unresolved)
  – Is the consolidation of governments advantageous?
  – How inefficient is the current system of government organization?
  – How citizens can hold governments accountable?

• Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)
  – Why citizens favor government consolidation, but don’t end up voting in favor of it
  – Documenting (in)efficiencies as a result of (or a lack of) government consolidation

• Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)
  – Local and state government officials
  – Citizens of communities, both those in favor and those opposed to consolidation
• **Key Themes**
  – A national climate strategy is necessary before regional carbon mitigation/markets for carbon can be effective
  – Land use regulations should be linked to community energy goals
  – Energy literacy and leadership development are key components

• **Key Policies (that inhibit or assist)**
  – Cap-and-trade
  – Smart Growth and land use/zoning regulations
  – Those that assist homeowners, encourage decentralized energy production

• **Key questions (unresolved)**
  – What projects will qualify for carbon offsets in upstate New York?
  – Which renewable energy sources should be invested in?

• **Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)**
  – Potential for land-based carbon offsets
  – Potential for decentralized forms of energy

• **Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)**
  – With regard to climate carbon policy, the federal government
  – At the local level, community residents
Key Themes
- Institutions of higher education as economic drivers
- Manufacturing as a crucial component of job growth
- Regional clusters as ways of stimulating creative, self-generating local economies
- Global-localization
- Resilience, connectivity, and coordination among stakeholders

Key Policies (that inhibit or assist)
- Policies that contribute to preparedness of young adults for manufacturing jobs

Key questions (unresolved)
- How do you reinvent the manufacturing sector when a young labor force is scarce?
- How do you address communities who are resistant to economic changes? (who simply wish to maintain the status quo)?

Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)
- Data assessing the preparedness of young Upstate residents for new jobs, particularly manufacturing jobs

Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)
- Businesses leaders, particularly those of small and medium-sized companies
- Young working-age population, which has the potential to both stimulate new ideas and jobs as well as fill expanding sectors such as manufacturing
• Key Themes
  – Health care costs are an impediment to economic development
  – Costs savings must come from efficiencies (e.g., consolidation), standardization
  – Incentives must be realigned to reward quality, and not quantity, of care
  – Mobility management/health service transportation strategies, especially in rural areas, are key to maintaining independence among the growing elderly population

• Key Policies (that inhibit or assist)
  – Public health and wellness efforts
  – Accountable Care Act: shifting incentives from providing health services to providing health

• Key questions (unresolved)
  – How will new health benefit exchanges work? New institutions will have to be created
  – How will Medicaid coverage be expanded in the face of budget issues?

• Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)
  – Identification of inefficiencies, opportunities for collaboration, consolidation

• Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)
  – Regional approach, especially in rural areas
• Key Themes
  – Green infrastructure
  – Smart Growth
  – Coordination between regions and local governments

• Key Policies (that inhibit or assist)
  – Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Act-Assists

• Key questions (unresolved)
  – How do we help communities start new green initiatives?
  – How to compile the data that is floating out in space about green projects, such as rain barrels?
  – Is home rule an asset or a hindrance?

• Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)
  – Need more data on land use
  – Data on home owner wells

• Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)
  – Politicians
  – Consumers
  – Engineers
Key Themes
- Consideration of poor children is paramount as they grow up to be poor adults
- Urban areas in NYS have higher rates of poverty than rural areas, but poverty has become more concentrated in rural upstate NY
- NYS has significant intercounty income inequality
- Female-headed households face highest levels of poverty

Key Policies (that inhibit or assist)
- Job training
- Affordable housing
- Entrepreneur training programs
- Youth programs

Key questions (unresolved)
- Is a college degree always necessary? What should rural communities be training for?
- Should homeownership be encouraged over renting?
- How do we help the kids when assistance to parents is not effective?

Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)
- Characteristics of undocumented farmworkers

Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)
- Housing organizations, credit unions
- The children
Workshop on Schools and Youth

- **Key Themes**
  - Restructuring of finances
  - Consolidation of school districts
  - Context matter - each region different

- **Key Policies (that inhibit or assist)**
  - STAR
  - Proposed tax cap - inhibits financing schools

- **Key questions (unresolved)**
  - How to restructure school budgets
  - Will proposed circuit breaker policy make STAR obsolete?

- **Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)**
  - Tracking students throughout educational careers

- **Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)**
  - Teachers
  - Administrators
  - Parents
  - Students
  - politicians
• **Key Themes**
  – Decline in manufacturing jobs
  – Need for greater collaboration and transparency
  – Upstate’s economy has become more diversified and stable
  – Shift towards higher skilled and higher human capital labor force/jobs Upstate
  – Higher education plays a key role in workforce development and job creation

• **Key Policies (that inhibit or assist)**
  – Policies that address the instabilities associated with the supply-demand orientation of the market

• **Key questions (unresolved)**
  – How can we better communicate and prepare local young people for the new well-paying, high-tech jobs that are emerging Upstate?
  – In the face of the increasing polarization of high and low-skilled jobs, how can we recreate a strong middle-income sector?

• **Data needs? (what do we not know but need data to provide an answer)**
  – Data pertaining to the aspirations and preparedness of Upstate young people for local careers

• **Key Agents (who needs to be at the table in policy/practice discussions)**
  – Business owners, particularly those of small and medium-sized businesses, which appear to be providing most of the current job growth
  – Government officials
  – Current and new labor force participants
Concluding Comments

• This is just the start...
  – Afternoon session today with University representatives
  – Conference Proceedings
  – Mini-Profiles for each of the Regional Economic Councils
  – Publications/Policy Briefings/Workshops
  – See you in June of 2013

• We want and need your feedback
  – Now
  – On the web

• Share thoughts and cross-cutting themes
Keynote Speakers
Panelists
Moderators (Cornell Cooperative Extension)
ALL of our Collaborators
Sue Smith
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