May 2018

Dear Friends,

Enclosed are registration materials for the 2018 Rural Schools Association Conference sponsored by PLS 3rd Learning to be held at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown, New York, from July 8-10, 2018. An informative program has been built focused on the conference theme of “Better People, Better Programs”.

We urge you to complete registration materials and return them as soon as possible. If you desire a room at the Otesaga, or its sister facility the Cooper Inn, the earlier hotel reservations are made by your organization, the greater your chances to obtain accommodations at either facility. If you intend to obtain other accommodations, we would appreciate your conference registration information so that we can complete our planning in a timely manner.

Conference Highlights

- **Sunday Afternoon** – Pre-Conference School Safety Summit – Sponsored by NYSIR & NYSSBA, Speakers: NYSIR, NYSSBA General Counsel and Deputy Executive Director Jay Worona
- **Sunday Banquet Keynote** – MaryEllen Elia, NYS Commissioner of Education,
- **Sunday Night** – National Farmers Museum Reception
- **Monday Morning Keynote** – Scott Jordan, National Rural Teacher of the Year
- **Monday Luncheon** – FFA Statewide Student Oratorical Contest Winners
- **Monday Banquet Keynote** – Dr. Allen Pratt, National Rural Education Association
- **A Variety of Corporate Exhibits of Interest to Rural Schools**
- **Tuesday Morning Presentation** – The Magic of Data to Improve Your District: Dr. John Sipple, Cornell University and Eidex
- **Concurrent Programs** on Monday Morning and Afternoon, as well as Tuesday Morning, presented by rural school districts or BOCES
- **Complimentary receptions, mixer and activities** during the conference, provided through the generous support of our corporate sponsors

The Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Mr. Kevin MacDonald, District Superintendent of the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, has prepared a conference program for the Rural Schools Association designed to be thought provoking and informative for conference attendees. Please consider joining us on July 8-10, 2018 at the Otesaga Hotel for this annual event.