

Subject: 8 @ 8 - Eight Things You Need to Know

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To: Alyssa McClenning

Eight things you need to know on topics related to Saratoga County's economy.

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8 @ 8 is a newsletter filled with eight things you need to know on topics related to the economy in Saratoga County, New York. You can expect to see 8 @ 8 in your inbox twice a month. If you have content you'd like us to share or have a topic you'd like to see more of, let us know and we'll work to include it in a future edition! -The Partnership Team



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FuzeHub Announces Manufacturing Funds

FuzeHub has launched a fund that will support technology development and commercialization in New York. It is a five million-dollar fund that FuzeHub will administer as the Empire State Development designated statewide Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) center. The [inaugural awardees were announced earlier this month](#). The next open application period for the [Jeff Lawrence Manufacturing Innovation Fund](#) will close on Friday, December 30. To learn more and to see the requirements, [click here](#).

Closing the Skills Gap

Employers are facing [a growing skills gap](#) that is impacting their ability to compete in today's economy. More than 90 percent of business leaders agree there is a critical skills gap facing their industries. Half of employers have job vacancies that can't be filled and nearly 40 percent of companies cannot take on new business available to them because they lack talent. [This episode of "The Table"](#) continues the conversation with six education and workforce experts.

Mentorship Opportunities in the Saratoga County

There are a number of opportunities this winter for business mentors to connect with Saratoga County students. The [Clean Technologies and Sustainable Industries Early College High School](#) is a collaboration

between Ballston Spa Central School District, [Hudson Valley Community College \(HVCC\)](#), NYSERDA, and more than 40 business partners. The program is designed to develop and support pathways to higher education in renewable energy, entrepreneurship, computer information science and semiconductor manufacturing for high school students throughout the Capital Region. One of the main tenets of the program is to connect and engage business/industry leaders with students as they progress through the program to provide opportunities for students to gain the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce. For more information about their [mentoring program](#), please contact Madeleine Petraglia at mpetraglia@bscsd.org.

Apprenda Cofounder is Pro-Upstate New York

Sinclair Schuller of Apprenda, a software company, considers himself, "Pro-Upstate," saying we cannot replicate the business model of Silicon Valley because circumstances focused on investing are different from the characteristics we have in our region. [Click here to see what he thinks our advantages are.](#)

Saratoga County Prosperity SUMMIT Recaps

The Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership held its inaugural Saratoga County Prosperity SUMMIT on Thursday, November 10. Over 100 leaders attended the SUMMIT, which covered a variety of topics from the state of economic development to community preparedness. If you were unable to attend, but want to know what we talked about, [head over to our blog](#) and [YouTube channel](#) for the recaps.

The Capital Region's Best Places to Work in 2016

The Albany Business Review recently announced their 2016 [Best Places to Work](#). The 36 winners were broken into four categories: small, with 10 to 24 employees; medium, with 25 to 49 employees; medium large, with 50 to 149 employees; and large, with 150 or more employees. Congratulations to [the Saratoga County companies who made the list!](#)

How Competitive is America?

In 2011, Harvard Business School faculty came together to launch the [U.S. Competitiveness Project](#). Based on a definition of competitiveness as the ability of firms operating in the U.S. to compete successfully in the global economy while supporting high and rising living standards for Americans, the faculty gathered data on the key aspects of competitiveness and took deep dives into various topics that have a profound impact on competitiveness. Since the Project's launch, they have conducted surveys and [released publications related to core issues of U.S. competitiveness.](#)

Capital Region Awarded \$83.1 Million in NYS Economic Development Funds

The [Capital Region was recently awarded \\$83.1 million](#) in grants and tax credits for economic development projects during the latest round of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's statewide funding competition. The amount was the second highest of the 10 regions across the state that received funding. From 2011 through 2015, the Capital Region was awarded \$354 million in grants and tax credits, including \$230.8

million for 462 "priority" projects.

The [Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership](#) is leading the charge for streamlined economic development and innovation in Saratoga County, New York.



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