

**CaRDI's approach to training promotes informed decision making, collaborative partnerships, and innovation.**

CaRDI responds to community leadership needs by providing a diverse and integrated portfolio of training opportunities to local government officials. Challenges presented by climate change, energy development, land use change, and economic development do not recognize local boundaries. CaRDI training programs enhance the capacity of local leaders to address complex issues and to work across local boundaries.

- Training based on applied research and analysis
- Collaboration with regional and state organizations and agencies
- Promotion of peer-to-peer/ community-to-community learning and the exchange of best practices
- Support of mechanisms that enhance regional coordination and cooperation

For more information about CaRDI,  
please visit:

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# COMMUNITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

## *Training Programs*



Cornell University  
Department of Development Sociology



### Rural Learning Network of Central and Western New York

CaRDI joined with the Department of Development Sociology, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County to develop the Rural Learning Network (RLN) of Central and Western New York. The RLN holds semi-annual conferences on community and economic development issues vital to rural communities of central and western New York. The conferences are designed to enhance local decision-making by using evidence-based knowledge and to propose innovative solutions to community and economic development challenges in the region. The RLN also enhances campus-county collaborations and the co-production of knowledge among academics, practitioners and policy makers.



### Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute

The Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute is an educational opportunity provided to city, town, and village clerks, deputy clerks, and clerks of county legislative boards. Participants gain new knowledge and skills to enhance the administration of their offices and the professionalism of their municipal governments. Under the umbrella of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), this multi-year certification program addresses a wide range of professional skills, such as financial management, emergency preparedness, computer skills, and public relations and local public policy.

*“With all of those different job titles we learned from the instructors and from one another. And, while every minute of every presentation may not be directly related to our day to day activities, it helped us to understand local government better and perhaps to understand the job that the person down the hall does, too.”*

Eric Denk  
2007 Graduate of the Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute

### Dennis A. Pelletier County Government Institute

The Dennis A. Pelletier County Government Institute is a comprehensive educational program jointly sponsored by the New York State Association of Counties and Cornell University. This voluntary certification program provides county officials with structured training to help them more effectively serve the public, by enhancing their knowledge, leadership and decision making skills. Core courses focus on building consensus in a political environment, ethics, foundations of county government, principles of county budget and finance and public sector labor/management relationships. Electives cover a wide range of topics such as economic development and health and human services issues.

### Land Use Leadership Alliance

CaRDI is partnering with the Pace University Land Use Law Center and the Albany Law School to make the center’s Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) training more widely available outside the center’s Hudson River Valley region. This high level interactive program offers four full days of training to a carefully selected and balanced group of local and regional “land use leaders.” Participants gain an understanding of the legal foundations and structure of New York’s land use system. Collaborative community decision making and conflict management skills are taught to intergrate new legal knowledge with new leadership and process skills. Participants are encouraged to become part of intermunicipal, regional and statewide networks of similarly-trained land use leaders.



### Sustainable Communities Webinars

New Yorkers are living through a period of remarkable change. They face challenges and new opportunities few could have predicted even a decade ago. In this context, CaRDI’s Sustainable Communities Webinars are a *web-based* opportunity for Extension Educators, local officials and other community leaders to broaden their understanding of current and emerging community and economic development issues and processes, and resources for addressing them. Researchers and practitioners will share research-based information and personal experience designed to help New Yorkers make informed decisions.