

Press Release

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Cornell University designated as New York State's EDA University Center for 2008-2011

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FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Ithaca, NY – The Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the US Department of Commerce announced that it has, in a competitive application process, selected Cornell University as its New York State EDA University Center. This three year designation includes \$150,000 per year, in project funding for 2008-2011 to strengthen the capacity of local institutions in New York State to promote economic development. To pursue these goals, the Center's program will combine applied research, training, outreach, and peer learning networks in collaboration with partners in central and western New York. EDA's mission is to promote American innovation and competitiveness in a global economy and it pursues this mission through financial support for regional approaches to economic development that are of a long-term, coordinated, and collaborative nature. This award is a continuation of Cornell's EDA existing EDA Center. This award allows Cornell to extend its role as the New York EDA University Center. The Community and Rural Development Institute hosted the Center for the past three years and will continue to do so under the new award. The Community and Rural Development Institute is in the process of wrapping up work conducted during its first three year stint as New York's EDA University Center.

WHAT THE EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER AT CORNELL IS COMPRISED OF

As Cornell's EDA University Center, the Community and Rural Development Institute will work closely with the newly formed University-level economic development administrative team, and its own extensive network of multidisciplinary faculty and staff, to ensure that the relevant resources are mobilized in support of this effort. In addition, CaRDI will work with its Cornell Cooperative Extension Association partners to implement the project.

WHAT THE PROJECT WILL FOCUS ON MORE SPECIFICALLY – P4P REGION

The Cornell EDA University Center will initially focus its activities in thirteen upstate New York counties which are working together in a regional alliance known as the Pipeline for Progress (P4P). These 13 counties are located in New York’s Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions. The Center will work at the local and regional level to build long-term capacity to promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and regional economic competitiveness, with an emphasis on recognizing and drawing on regional assets for this purpose. Operating on the premise that economic and community development are interrelated, the Cornell EDA Center links economic and community development activities. The Center combines applied research, training, outreach, and learning networks. Lessons learned in central and western New York will inform both research and technical assistance programs in other regions of the state that are similar to the P4P region, but have unique circumstances.

CLOSING PARAGRAPH

The EDA University Center designation provides CaRDI an important platform from which to contribute to enhancing the capacity of New York communities to achieve their community and economic development goals.

QUOTES:

Max Pfeffer, faculty co-director of CaRDI and the EDA-University Center project, emphasizes that “the Center is an important component of the University’s broader engagement with the state of New York, as its land grant university, and in particular, its continuing commitment to regional economic stewardship.”

Amo Houghton states “The Cornell EDA University Center is going to play a very important role in building support networks and bringing about dialogues. It’s clear that New York State needs a brand new model as well as strategies based on partnerships using real information to revitalize P4P and, of course, other regions across New York State.”