

# PATTERN'S PROGRESS

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A PRINTABLE VERSION

MAY 2012

## Sold-out crowd attends Pattern forum in Tarrytown



Pattern for Progress CEO Jonathan Drapkin, left, moderated a discussion with Rockland County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Westchester Executive Robert Astorino, and Rockland Executive Scott Vanderhoef.—Journal News photo

**TARRYTOWN** — A sold-out crowd of government, business and civic leaders attended a regional leadership conversation hosted by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress on April 26 in Tarrytown.

The panel discussion featured all three county executives from the lower Hudson Valley—Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Rockland County Executive Scott Vanderhoef, and Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino.

The leaders discussed several topics that are key to the region's future, including the Tappan Zee Bridge, economic development and housing. The three agreed that the Tappan Zee Bridge needs to be replaced, but Astorino and Vanderhoef said the new bridge must include mass transit. And the executives said they are still awaiting critical information about the new bridge, such as how much the toll would cost.

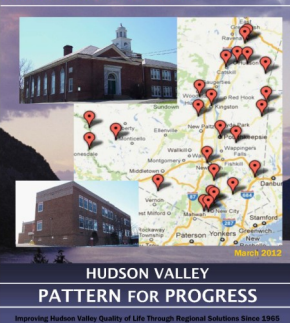
The executives also discussed other ideas to stimulate the economy and make government more efficient. Odell favors a sales tax break around back-to-school time, which might stimulate the economy and help struggling families, she said.

The breakfast forum was the second hosted by Pattern this year. A February forum among the county executives from Dutchess, Orange and Ulster also attracted a sold-out crowd.

## Pattern releases report on school enrollment and building closures

### CLOSED SCHOOLS, OPEN MINDS

Hudson Valley's school enrollment dilemma and opportunities for adaptive reuse



Pattern for Progress has released a discussion brief on the decline of public school enrollment, the closure of school buildings and how the Hudson Valley can reuse these buildings to enhance the vitality of communities. The report shows that school enrollment has been dropping in eight of nine counties in the valley. That has led to 19 school-building closures in the past four years alone. The report has been covered extensively in the media and has been well received by the education community.

[CLICK HERE OR THE REPORT COVER TO READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE.](#)

## Food hub project hits the road for listening sessions

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress will hit the road this month to hear from local farmers, food distributors, restaurant owners and other stakeholders along the food value chain.

Pattern will oversee four listening sessions this month as part of its new initiative to study food infrastructure in the Hudson Valley. The research will help Pattern determine whether new infrastructure, such as food hubs, might help local farmers get their products to market more efficiently.

Listening to local farmers and other stakeholders is a key part of our research. We want to hear about current programs, challenges, improvements and opportunities for collaboration that would help local farmers get more of their food to market.

### LISTENING SESSION SCHEDULE

**May 7:** Orange County: SUNY Orange-Newburgh Campus, 6-8 p.m.

**May 14:** Columbia-Greene Community College, 4-6 p.m.

**May 22:** Putnam/Rockland/Westchester, hosted by Glynwood, 4-6 p.m.

**May 29:** Ulster County: SUNY Ulster, 6-8 p.m.

[Click here](#) or e-mail Pattern Vice President Sarah Brannen ([sbrannen@pfprogress.org](mailto:sbrannen@pfprogress.org)) for more.

**Please pass this along to local farmers or other stakeholders who can further our research!**

## Progress notes & events

- During the past four months, **Pattern CEO Jonathan Drapkin** and **Vice President Joe Czajka** visited seven counties to teach government officials, nonprofits and other grant writers about the state's new Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). The new CFA process put several state grant programs under one application. Pattern teamed with local chambers of commerce, economic development groups and Aimee Vargas, the Mid-Hudson regional director for Empire State Development. We are proud to announce that Pattern **instructed more than 550 people** during seminars across the Hudson Valley.
- Pattern for Progress will host two events in the month of June.

**June 13: Pattern Fellows Graduation** - An event to recognize the achievements and hard work of the Pattern Fellow. This year's keynote speaker will be **Adam Bryant**, deputy national editor at *The New York Times* and author of "The Corner Office" column on Sundays.

**June 19: Pattern Government Conference** - This year we will look at the crisis in public finance. Guest speakers will include former state Assemblyman **Richard Brodsky**, an expert on public finance, and a workshop by the state comptroller's office. Call Pattern at (845) 565-4900 for sponsorship or registration information.



Join Pattern for Progress on Facebook for regular updates, photos and reports. Follow us by [clicking here](#).