



Ulster County Community College

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Office of the President

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December 29, 2014

To Those Writing the Commissioner and Chancellor:

Thank you for copying me on the email you sent to the Commissioner of Economic Development and the Chancellor of the State University of New York. New York has a history of robust debate when it comes to environmental and economic development issues and input from concerned citizens and groups is an important and welcome part of that discussion.

I want to clarify the role of SUNY Ulster within the context of the StartUp NY program with which we, along with many other components of SUNY have chosen to become actively engaged. The steps defined by the SUNY Chancellor's office are clear and concise and include filing a plan for participation, which we did, being one of the first few in the state to receive approval.

As a part of that defined process, we named a committee to meet with and review proposed projects to determine if the prospective company was eligible to complete a proposal to be forwarded to New York's Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) for consideration. At that point, if recommended, the campus president forwards the project to ESD.

Reviewing the process and the credentials that were considered in the case of Niagara Bottling, I cannot imagine an outcome other than that which we reached given the defined role that the College performs.

It is now up to other agencies with different clearly defined processes to analyze and make determinations about the viability and value of the project. Being an educator and one with a strong belief in informed decision-making based upon factual information, I look forward to the process unfolding. However, I am not a party to, nor a decision maker within those systems.

Before closing, I want you to know StartUp NY is a new program in its 15th or 16th month of existence. Each SUNY campus was urged to participate last fall ('13) and SUNY Ulster was among the first eight campuses to have their campus plans approved.

We have had about 20 inquiries, from a variety of companies. Companies seek us out, we do not recruit companies. To this date we have submitted three applications to ESD for final approval into StartUp. All three are manufacturing-related.

I support StartUp NY, because it is a new program that looks to address the need for jobs in upstate NY. I also support it, because it allows unique learning experiences for students with

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To Those Writing the
Commissioner and Chancellor

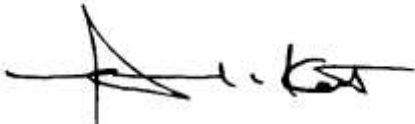
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participating partners. It is my hope that residents of Ulster County understand that I pursued the Niagara/StartUp only for the benefit of our students and the improvement of our local economy.

Thank you for participating in this process and for allowing me to respond to your communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald C. Katt', written over a horizontal line.

Donald C. Katt
President
SUNY Ulster

cc: Commissioner of Economic Development
Chancellor of the State University of New York