

ESD Announces 23 Businesses Chose to Grow in Upstate NY and Commit to Creating Nearly 300 Jobs



Empire State Development today announced that 23 businesses will startup, expand or locate in seven regions across Upstate New York, partnering with local colleges and universities to spur economic growth across the state. These companies have committed to create nearly 300 new jobs and invest approximately \$9.8 million over the next five years.

“From life sciences to advanced manufacturing, software development and green-tech, more and more companies are finding New York State is a great place to start or grow their business,” said **Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky**. “These businesses have the potential to create hundreds of jobs in throughout Upstate New York in dynamic, innovative industries, while generating millions in revenue for the local economy.”

“As I shared in my inaugural State of the University System address this week, two themes of my vision for the System include innovation and entrepreneurship, and increase and expand partnerships. This is an example of these themes at work,” said **SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson**. “The partnerships between our campuses and these businesses are producing academic benefits for faculty and students, while simultaneously driving innovation-based economic development in New York State.”

These businesses will create jobs in key industries, including: biotechnology, craft beverage production; computer/information technology; film post-production; high-technology; manufacturing and advanced manufacturing; research and development; software development; and technical and trade school transportation engineering and design.

The 23 companies are sponsored by the following New York State colleges and universities: Adirondack Community College; Binghamton University; Clarkson University; Finger Lakes Community College; Genesee Community College; Hudson Valley Community College; Mount Saint Mary College; Onondaga Community College; Schenectady County Community College; SUNY Cobleskill; SUNY Ulster; and the University at Albany.

Schenectady County Community College:

KIRSH Helmets, Inc. is a small early stage business expanding to the production phase, and is the only helmet company producing a helmet entirely made in America. **KIRSH Helmets** uses a patented silicone technology to lessen the impact during crashes and is lighter and smaller than most other helmets. The company will create 13 new jobs and invest \$347,000.

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