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Seeing the promise of Tech Valley for all

By JIMMY VIELKIND, Staff writer

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First published: Tuesday, September 4, 2007

ALBANY -- If the high-tech dreams of Tech Valley come to fruition in the Capital Region, one group is working to make sure that nonprofit service providers have a voice in the conversation.

The University at Albany's Nonprofit Executive Roundtable is sponsoring a forum to bring together nonprofit leaders with representatives of business and government. The hope, said Judith Saidel, executive director of the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society at UAlbany, is that growth should benefit everybody.

"Something very fundamental and important is going to happen, and we didn't want to be one of the cities where the future just happens. The rising tide does not necessarily lift all boats," Saidel said, adding "some boats have anchors."

The Tech Valley Civic Forum will be Sept. 19 at UAlbany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. About 100 invited guests are expected. The goal, Saidel said, is to "build an inclusive civic visioning process that will build the community we want it to build."

The forum comes on the heels of two reports by the Nonprofit Executive Roundtable. The first concluded in 2003 that the Capital Region's 1,556 nonprofits accounted for one-fifth of the area's economic activity and comprised a \$7.8 billion-a-year sector. The second, released in 2006, examined how high-tech growth affected Austin, Texas, which is often cited as a model for future economic development in the Capital Region.

That report concluded that economic growth increased the gap between rich and poor in Austin, did not address long-standing socioeconomic problems and let the public school system fester.

The goal of this forum is to begin conversations as to where and how progress should be measured beyond simple economic calculations like tax revenues and property values.



"We must know what our criteria will be as we look to measure these impacts," Saidel said. "We are at a unique moment in the economic history of the Capital Region. Will we seize it?"

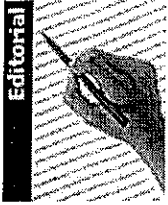
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The future is now

First published: Sunday, September 16, 2007

Remember the date: Sept. 19, 2007. That's the day when the Capital Region prepares to meet its future. Remember the occasion: A groundbreaking session of The Tech Valley Civic Forum for invited leaders from business, government, education and the nonprofit sector at the University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. There, they will assess the promises of a growing nanotech economy, and the possible pitfalls. And they will map a course to pursue the former while avoiding the latter.

The signs of a coming economic boom have been apparent for some time now -- at UAlbany's growing nanotech research and development complex on Fuller Road; at the Watervliet Arsenal; at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's technology park in North Greenbush; and the new Tech Valley High School that opened last week, ready to prepare Capital Region students for tomorrow's careers in science and technology. But these are the head winds. The full gale force of a nanotech economic boom won't be felt until all major sectors are in place, including a microchip fabrication plant in Saratoga County's Luther Forest.

That means there is still time for the Capital Region to benefit from the tech boom rather than being overrun by it. And there's a blueprint for careful planning -- the eye-opening report, "High-Tech Growth and Community Well-Being: Lessons Learned from Austin," written by Judith Saidel, executive director of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, and Teri Bordenave, president and chief executive officer of Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region.

The authors, who visited Austin, Texas, and met with local leaders, found that the boom times often bypassed whole segments of the city's population. The public schools seemed to be caught off guard, with many students enrolled in courses that failed to prepare them for the high-tech jobs around them. And longtime supporters of nonprofit agencies were often taken for granted, while newcomers willing to write big checks were assiduously courted. But when the tech bubble burst, the big checks were harder to come by and the neglected supporters were nowhere to be found, leaving a crucial safety net of social services at risk.

Ms. Saidel, who is a driving force behind the Tech Valley Civic Forum, likens Austin to a community divided by a major highway -- one side lined with the markings of prosperity, the other showing signs of neglect. The Capital Region must avoid such a divide.

The forum will be more than just talk. A preliminary strategy, the Forum Action Plan, is scheduled to be in place by next spring, and its success will be monitored into 2009, when the Tech Valley Civic Forum II will conclude the planning process.

In other words, actions will follow words. And none too soon.

THE ISSUE: A civic forum will map plans for the area's high-tech boom.

THE STAKES: The goal must be to meet the needs of all sectors of the community.

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Release

Tech Valley Civic Forum Focused on Building Foundation for Sustainable High Tech-Based Economic Growth

ALBANY, N.Y. (September 18, 2007) -- As high-tech-driven development presents changes in the Tech Valley economy, UAlbany's Nonprofit Executive Roundtable is partnering with the Center for Economic Growth in hosting a forum designed to promote broad community planning and enhance community vitality and sustainability. The Tech Valley Civic Forum, hosted and co-sponsored by the University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), will be the first event of its kind in the Tech Valley region, bringing together leaders from business, government, nonprofit and education to build the foundation for -- and commitment to -- an inclusive planning process based on the over-arching vision of successful collaboration. The event will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at CNSE. Other sponsors of the Tech Valley Civic Forum include the Bender Family Foundation, the Times Union, and the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The forum stems from the need to create opportunities for broad community planning and action that involves stakeholders from all sectors -- business, government, nonprofit, education -- as identified in the case study High-Tech Growth and Community Well-being: Lessons Learned from Austin, Texas. The case study, recently released by the Nonprofit Executive Roundtable at UAlbany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, is based on insights shared by business, nonprofit and higher education leaders in Austin.

"The Tech Valley Civic Forum is a first step in bringing together key stakeholders so we can avoid some of the problems faced by our colleagues Austin," said Judith Saidel, report co-author and director of UAlbany's Center for Women in Government and Civil Society

"The Tech Valley Civic Forum promises to be a very enlightening event, one which fits well with CEG's mission and efforts to support sustainable regional growth, and we are pleased with the opportunity to collaborate with regional leaders as we bring these issues to the forefront to help maximize the historic economic opportunities before us," said F. Michael Tucker, president and CEO of the Center for Economic Growth.

"The UAlbany NanoCollege is pleased and excited to sponsor and host the first-ever Tech Valley Civic Forum," said Alain Kaloyeros, vice president and Chief Administrative Officer of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. "As nanotechnology continues to lead economic investment and growth in the Capital Region and across New York, open dialogues such as these are critical in ensuring that all sectors of our community realize both the opportunities and benefits of this unprecedented high-tech growth. We congratulate Professor Saidel and wish the Forum the best of success."

The forum is designed to develop cross-sector task forces to address core issues. Results of the meeting will be documented and consolidated into a summary report, with task forces presenting preliminary findings in 2008 and final results in spring 2009.

The Center for Economic Growth (CEG) is a regional economic and business development organization dedicated to attracting high-tech talent and companies and to providing innovative services to bolster local businesses in New York state's Capital Region and Tech Valley. CEG receives significant financial support from the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR), New York's high-technology economic development agency, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). CEG serves as NYSTAR's designated Regional Technology Development Center for Tech Valley, one of nearly 350 MEP locations across the country assisting local manufacturing and technology companies with generating new sales, creating stronger operational infrastructure and overcoming barriers to

growth.

The Nonprofit Executive Roundtable is a forum to identify and address broad, pressing issues relevant to the nonprofit sector. Based at UAlbany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, the Roundtable is a community-university collaboration with two primary goals: to provide documentation of an expand awareness about the voluntary sector as a key contributor, along with business and government, to the economy and quality of life of the Capital Region; and to catalyze cross-sector conversations about the challenges and opportunities for Tech Valley of technology-based economic growth.

Ranked among the top-10 Public Affairs programs in the nation, the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy's core mission is to discover, communicate, and apply knowledge about politics, governance, public policy, and public management. The college directly helps public managers, policymakers, and others deal effectively with the challenges they face, making democracy stronger and governments more effective around the world.

The UAlbany College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering is the first college in the world dedicated to research, development, education, and deployment in the emerging disciplines of nanoscience, nanoengineering, nanobioscience, and nanoeconomics. In May 2007, it was ranked as the world's number one college for nanotechnology and microtechnology in the Annual College Ranking by Small Times magazine. CNSE's Albany NanoTech complex is the most advanced research facility of its kind at any university in the world: a \$4.2 billion, 450,000-square-foot complex that attracts corporate partners from around the world and offers students a one-of-a-kind academic experience. The UAlbany NanoCollege houses the only fully-integrated, 300mm wafer, computer chip pilot prototyping and demonstration line within 65,000 square feet of Class 1 capable cleanrooms. Over 1,600 scientists, researchers, engineers, students, and faculty work on site at CNSE's Albany NanoTech complex, including IBM, AMD, SONY, Toshiba, Qimonda, Honeywell, ASML, Applied Materials, Tokyo Electron, and Freescale. An expansion currently underway will increase the size of CNSE's Albany NanoTech complex to over 750,000 square feet, including over 80,000 square feet of Class 1 cleanroom space, to house over 2,000 scientists, researchers, engineers, students, and faculty by the end of 2008.

The University at Albany's broad mission of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research and public service engages more than 17,000 diverse students in 10 schools and colleges. For more information about this internationally ranked institution, visit the [University at Albany](#). Visit UAlbany's extensive roster of [Faculty Experts](#).

Please send questions or comments about the UAlbany News site to:
[**mediarelations@uamail.albany.edu**](mailto:mediarelations@uamail.albany.edu)

‘Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.’

— Malcolm Forbes



Teri Bordenave
President and Chief
Executive Officer
Girls Inc
Chair
Tech Valley Nonprofit
Business Council

The nonprofit business community here in Tech Valley is engaged in education in a number of different ways. Many of our area nonprofit organizations have a mission that focuses on the education of children, workforce education, arts education or expanding our knowledge and awareness of the rich history this region holds. Some of our collaborative nonprofit endeavors, such as this Tech Valley Nonprofit Business Council and the Nonprofit Executive Roundtable of the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society at Nelson A. Rockefeller College have directed much of their efforts toward educating our community about the critical role the nonprofit sector plays in the economic health and overall vitality of this region.

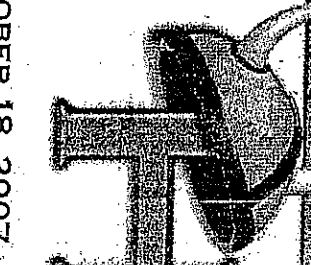
This Council has delivered some stellar educational programs this year and we look forward to our fall 2007 events. On September 12, we will offer an human resources program in concert with the Chamber’s Cultural Diversity Business Council. Those present will have the opportunity to select from seven different facilitated lunchtime table conversations to participate in – including *Small Wages – Big Responsibilities*, *Stopping the Revolving Door* and *Making the Workplace Diversity Friendly*.

On November 14, we will host our third annual Tech

a publication of the albany-colonie regional chamber of commerce

VISIONS

education



THE HUDSONIAN

OCTOBER 18, 2007

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 6

Tech Valley has Potential To Widen Economic Gap

By: Trevor Jones
Staff Writer

The University at Albany's Nonprofit Executive Roundtable, along with the Center for Economic Growth, hosted a forum to discuss some of the issues surrounding economic growth in the Capital Region and its effect on the well being of the community as a whole on Tuesday, September 18.

With the Capital Region's influx of high-tech industries in recent years, the potential for an increase in the area's socio-economic divide is an "enormous challenge" that must be addressed, according to Dr. Judith Sidel, Chairperson of the University at Albany's Nonprofit Executive Roundtable and Executive Director for the Center for Woman in Government and Civil Society.

The Tech Valley Civic

Forum was a first of its kind, and was sparked by a report issued by the University's Nonprofit Executive Roundtable from the spring of 2006 on Austin, Texas' struggles with its own tech boom, and what lessons could be learned concerning this area.

The study found a sharp increase in the cost of living, due to an influx of highly paid residents in Austin, made it much more difficult for the region's poor to maintain their standard of living. Also, an increased need for highly skilled and trained workers left many uneducated residents unable to find work, and eventually led to high-tech companies relocating to areas with potential for a more skilled workforce.

The forum hoped to bring local leaders of industry and government together to ensure the Capital Region avoids some of those same mistakes. According to Sidel, it is important to "identify what

kinds of cross-sector initiatives will maximize the benefits of potential economic growth, while mitigating potential negatives."

Having workers with varying levels of higher education will be important to an increase in high-tech jobs, as there will be a need for at least a 15% increase in residents with an associate's degree by 2014, according to the New York State Department of Labor. Sidel believes more needs to be done in the area of post-secondary education, and is concerned "students are not aware of the best way to take advantage of career opportunities."

Today there are several outlets for potential workers. RPI and the University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering have renovated programs geared toward potential engineers.

See TEC-SMART/P6

TEC-SMART Continued/P1

Tech Valley High School in Troy just welcomed its first class of 40 students, and hopes to eventually have 400 students in technical training courses in grades 9 through 12. Hudson Valley's new Training and Education Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing and Alternative Renewable Technologies (TEC-SMART) hopes to provide technicians to meet the needs of potential businesses.

Joe Stambin, Director of TEC-SMART, sees hope for successful future for the Capital District. He believes the area's colleges and training facilities will help both industry and workers looking for a more profitable future. "It will be nice to keep students in the area with these jobs. Hopefully other companies might consider relocating their business to the area because they have a nice pool of candidates," said Stambin. "With the premiere training facilities we have here,

we're hoping to meet those goals."

The forum also focused on avoiding the increased gap between rich and poor Austin faced. From the period of 1991 to 2001 Austin saw the largest inflation-adjusted per capita income increase (29%), in the nation. These increased wages, along with a rapid influx of new residents, drove the cost of living, especially housing, to an unsustainable level for many of the city's poorer residents.

Some in the area fear a similar tech boom here could exacerbate existing conditions locally. Recent data has shown an increasing divide between urban and suburban communities in the Capital Region, in terms of economic prosperity. According to Census data, 7.1% of Albany County residents lived below the poverty line in 2006, which was below the national average of 9.8%.

While those figures have gone almost unchanged since 2000, the number of Albany City residents living below the poverty line has gone up by more than 4% over the same period, from 16% to 20.6%.

Since labeling the region as "New York's Tech Valley" (a title created by the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce) in 1998, state and local officials, along with local businesses, have been pushing to create a new image for the Capital District that will have a lasting economic impact. The shift to high-tech industries began to take hold at the early part of this decade, with over \$18 billion in investments and commitments to new technology developments since 2001 and potential for thousands of newly created jobs, according to the City of Albany.

Sidel, herself a long time local resident, sees this as the best opportunity for economic growth the area has ever seen. "This is our best shot," said Sidel. "We have a unique opportunity to take broad perspectives on the potential consequences of high tech economic growth, and right now we are not doing enough."

Volunteering builds connections, morale



DIANA MARTIN
WORKBYTES

Bono and I jogged through the nature trails at a fair pace, with the sun streaming through the trees. We came to a clearing and sat side by side in the grass, resting and smiling at one another.

As I gently rubbed his back and spoke to him in a soft tone, he leaned in closer to my face and planted a wet, sloppy kiss on my cheek.

Bono was my new found friend at the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society. It was my first day as a dog-care volunteer, and Bono was the first of many dogs I walked that morning.

Since that first day, I have committed to a weekly routine visit and I look forward to each morning I spend helping to clean cages and walk dogs.

Though I am new to the humane society, I am also involved with several other local organizations and initiatives. Volunteer. Please see **WORKBYTES D3**.

Times Union 2/1/08

WORKBYTES: Volunteering

▼ CONTINUED FROM D1

ing in the community has enhanced my professional growth in many ways. It has helped me develop a network of contacts, round out my skill set and be more aware of important community issues. And it even has contributed to my personal well-being.

I taking part in regional initiatives and organizational committees is a strong benefit to young professionals as they launch their careers. Here are a few key guidelines I have followed when exploring opportunities to get involved in our community.

■ **Begin by researching the prospects** that will have the most significant impact on your career.

My position with the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering in Albany is primarily focused on educational outreach at the K-12 level. I work with many local schools to introduce students, parents, teachers and educational leaders to the emerging science of nanotechnology.

As a result, I have become involved with two key regional initiatives focused on education and the growing nanotech economy. I am part of the Learning Team for Tech Valley High School in North Greenbush, and I also co-chair a new regional initiative of the Tech Valley Civic Forum, a task force called New Economy and P-16 Education.

Being involved with these two

committees has given me access to a number of experienced educators, administrators and seasoned business leaders. I have learned a great deal about successful educational models and practices, and collaborations that are under way.

This knowledge has been extremely valuable as we develop, build and launch new educational programs at the Nano College.

■ **Do not over-commit.** Be honest with yourself and don't take on more than you can handle.

I have seen some very successful young people who have the best of intentions take on more responsibility than their schedule allows. In my mind, it is far better to fully commit to one or two organizations than to be partially committed to a half-dozen. Of course, your own career should never suffer because you are stretched too thin with external obligations.

■ **It is equally important to volunteer for an organization whose mission and goals are in line with your personal interests and hobbies.**

While my involvement with Tech Valley High School and the Tech Valley Civic Forum is primarily career-related, my volunteering with the humane society is personally driven. I wanted to connect with an organization that does a great service to our community, and I wanted to do

something that would enhance my work-life balance.

I have had some wonderful pets in my life, and this is my way to give back to animals that don't have a permanent home.

At the end of the day, I feel really good about my contributions (albeit small) to the wonderful staff and animals at the shelter. It leaves me feeling rejuvenated and ready to get back to the office for the upcoming week.

When I returned to the humane society for my second visit, I eagerly approached Bono's cage to greet him. I was anticipating another pleasant trot through the woods and a little playtime in the grassy clearing.

I felt a bitter-sweet lump in my throat when I saw that my little friend was gone — he had been adopted during the week.

I silently hoped that he was given to a happy home — an environment where he would be safe and well-cared for. I again remembered my purpose for donating my time at the shelter.

Sometimes, the best work we do goes unpaid. And yet we are still rewarded for it.

► *Workbytes is written locally by and for Gen Xers learning the realities of the workplace. Diana L. Martin is manager of strategic and educational outreach at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering of the University at Albany.*

Nonprofit sector contributes significantly to quality of life in Tech Valley

Six years ago, when New York state confronted a severe fiscal crisis — as is currently the case — the Nonprofit Executive Roundtable at the University at Albany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy released a path-breaking report.

"A \$4 Billion Growth Industry That Cares, The Impact of the Nonprofit Sector on the Capital Region of New York State," catalyzed a paradigm shift here in the Capital Region with respect to the role of the nonprofit sector as an important actor, along with business and government, in the region's economy. In addition to the substantial quality of life impacts contributed by nonprofits as charitable entities, nonprofits are increasingly acknowledged as significant players in the economic vitality of the area, as well. The formation of the Tech Valley Nonprofit Business Council was an important benchmark in the evolution of the paradigm shift in Tech Valley.

Hugh Johnson, chairman of Johnson Illington Advisors, LLC, commented on the report's findings, "The contribution to and importance of the nonprofit sector of the Capital Region to the Capital Region economy cannot be overstated."

To comprehend the nature and magnitude of the sector's economic impact, a number of dimensions should be taken into account: revenues generated by nonprofit organizations; individuals employed and wages and benefits paid; goods and services purchased; and indirect economic impact.

Many nonprofit researchers argue that volunteer labor should also be valued in calculations of nonprofit economic impact. They observe that voluntary sector organizations mobilize substantial hours of volunteer labor to increase the scope of their activities, reach additional residents, and further improve the quality of their services.

In 2008, according to the National Center for Charitable Statistics, 1,690 public benefit nonprofits, classified as 501(c)(3) in the Internal Revenue Code, operated in the

four counties of the Capital Region: Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady. This represents an 8.6 percent increase over the 1,556 nonprofits reported in the study cited above.

Using the same percent increase to estimate the number of current employees, we can speculate that about 65,160 Capital Region residents work in nonprofits today. The combined revenues of the 1,690 firms total \$6.9 billion. More detailed economic impact data, current as of 2002, are included in the original study, which is available

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Business leaders observe that the more developed the service infrastructure of health care, education, social and cultural services — on which all residents and businesses in the region rely — the more attractive a region becomes to residents and businesses that are making location, relocation or expansion decisions.

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at www.cwig.albany.edu by clicking on research.

But the story is only half told so far.

Nonprofits deliver crucial services to individuals and communities in Tech Valley, a region that has become increasingly diverse, as documented by each recent census. Nonprofits tend to be rooted in the communities they serve, flexible in responding to changing needs, and cost-effective in service delivery.

Capital Region nonprofits run much of

the service infrastructure of health care, education, social and cultural services on which all residents and businesses in the region rely. Business leaders observe that the more developed this service infrastructure, the more attractive a region becomes to residents and businesses that are making location, relocation or expansion decisions. They point out that nonprofits take responsibility for the things in life that residents and businesses cannot do without, but that are often not profitable or only marginally profitable, such as education, health care, child care, the arts or environmental protection.

At the same time, as the scholar-authors of a 2001 book, "Measuring the Impact of the Nonprofit Sector," wisely observed: "[T]he current focus on measuring service delivery of nonprofit organizations sometimes distracts from the other key roles and functions of the sector, such as providing avenues for affiliation; bringing about social change, advocacy, research, and experimentation; empowering citizens; engaging in arts and culture; and promoting and strengthening democracy and religious participation."

These contributions to the quality of life and the vitality and sustainability of our democratic culture are often beyond measurement, but are no less fundamental to preserving the kind of community that the Capital Region has always striven to realize.

Our robust and still innovative voluntary sector and the generous philanthropic impulse of so many Capital Region businesses and individual donors, expressed in support of the sector's fund-raising efforts, provide compelling evidence of the region's collective commitment to building and sustaining vibrant communities.

Nonprofits are uniquely positioned to promote human dignity and compassion and offer opportunities for participation, service, stewardship, entrepreneurship and generosity. These ideals may be difficult to measure, but they are surely at the core of a democratic society's character. ■

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ALBANY, NEW YORK ■ FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009

Policy guides set for May release

Tech Valley Civic Forum has recommendations to leverage tech boom

By **LARRY RULISON**
Business writer

ALBANY — Tech Valley Civic Forum, a group that wants to ensure the Capital Region benefits from the expansion of its technology sector, will host a day-long event next month at which it will release a long-awaited policy report.

The session, being called Tech Valley Futures, is scheduled for May 29 at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy.

There, the group's volunteer task forces will release a set of recommendations for the region, which is anticipating a surge in its technology economy with the planned construction of a \$4.2-billion computer chip manufacturing plant in Malta starting this summer.

Judith Saidel, who led the creation of the group after publishing a study on the impact the tech boom had on Austin, Texas, says volunteers have been working on the project for 18 months.

"We're now ready to produce this event and produce this report," said Saidel, an associate professor at the college.

Please see **FORM C2**

FORUM

▼ CONTINUED FROM C1

ate professor at the University at Albany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs. "It's just been phenomenal."

A yet-to-be-formed panel of civic leaders will react to the policy recommendations during the morning part of the program, which also will include time for questions from the public. After a luncheon that will include a speaker, a career and workforce development session will take place that has been dubbed Tech Valley Career Futures.

Saidel did not want to say what recommendations the group was prepared to make, since not all of the documents have been finalized. She also did not want to upstage the event.

However, the group is expected to suggest a "metrics for success" that will allow the region to measure how well it has been able to benefit from the growth of the technology sector.

Austin has frequently been cited as one city that did not plan well

for its tech boom. The city grew rapidly in the 1980s and 1990s as chipmakers built factories there, attracted to the Sematech computer-chip consortium and university research. Sematech has since decided to move the bulk of its research operations to Albany, which has also become a major research center for companies like IBM Corp. GlobalFoundries Inc., the company building the \$4.2-billion fab in Malta, is expected to create thousands of construction and clean room jobs, and attract suppliers and partners.

However, groups like the Tech Valley Civic Forum have wanted to ensure that all sectors of the economy benefit from such economic expansion, including nonprofit and other civic groups, as well as local municipalities.

Recent studies have shown that if growth is not managed well, it could have a detrimental impact on such things as traffic patterns and suburban sprawl, two major issues that have caused problems for Austin.

► Larry Rulison can be reached at 454-5504 or by e-mail at lrulison@timesunion.com

At the pump

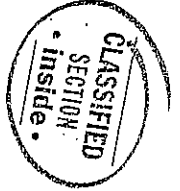
Average Capital Region price

Current	Refined
North 80	\$2.95
Year ago	\$2.17
National current avg.	\$3.93
Sales tax only fuel gauge report	\$2.36

ALBANY, NEW YORK

BUSINESS

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FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2009

Looking to Texas for lessons in tech

Civic Forum participants explore ways to spread benefits of growth

By ERIC ANDERSON
Deputy business editor

ALBANY — Scientists and engineers may have their pick of high-paying jobs as technology companies transform the Capital Region in coming years.

But community leaders worry many towns and neighborhoods, and their residents, could be left behind.

"There are many power-less communities in the Capital Region," said Albany Common Council member Carolyn

McLaughlin. "If we do not reach out to the various communities to set up a network to collaborate with everyone, community well-being will not be the result."

McLaughlin was speaking at the Tech Valley Civic Forum update, held Thursday at the Italian American Community Center in Albany.

Groups of community and business leaders have been working under the direction of the Tech Valley Nonprofit Business Council on how to capitalize on the region's growing technology sector and to make sure the less fortunate aren't left behind.

It follows an earlier study by

Please see FORUM C2.

FORUM

CONTINUED FROM C1

the Nonprofit Executive Roundtable at the University at Albany that examined how Austin, Texas, dealt with the rapid growth of its technology sector in the 1980s and 1990s.

"In Austin, they had the ability to annex property around Austin because it wasn't incorporated," noted Albany County Executive Michael Breslin. In the Capital Region, "every square inch" is spoken for, and the challenge is to get everyone working together.

Judith Saidei, executive director of the Center for Women in

Government and Civil Society at Albany who leads the Nonprofit Executive Roundtable, said Austin's experience pointed out the importance of including representatives from all segments of the community, creating opportunities for the broader community, and identifying how to measure the success of these efforts.

Raona Roy, another panelist who is director of institutional advancement at Tech Valley High School in North Greenbush, said students need to know of the opportunities the technology sector offers, and to prepare for the skilled jobs and the service jobs that support the sector.

Bryant Cassella, a KeyBank N.A. senior vice president who also was

on the panel, said the focus is on "middle-skilled jobs, the Ph.D.s, they'll find their way."

Thursday's audience was filled with officials from area nonprofit organizations. In Austin, nonprofits had said they felt left out of the planning as the tech sector grew.

Participants in the Tech Valley Civic Forum say they don't want that to happen here.

They will issue their recommendations next Friday at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy.


More information is available at <http://www.techvalleyfuture.org>.


Eric Anderson can be reached at 454-5323 or by e-mail at eranderson@timesunion.com.





The Buzz: Business news

conference in the Capital Region isn't just about multibillion-dollar companies and deals, but from-and-pop shops that also keep the economy around here humming. Our business blog will run the gamut, too. Join the blog to add your comments.

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Tech Valley Civic Forum releases recommendations

May 29, 2009 at 2:14 pm by Larry Rutison, Business writer

Education and workforce initiatives were the focus of most of the recommendations released today by the Tech Valley Civic Forum, an initiative designed to help the region capitalize on the growth of the technology sector.

The group, an initiative of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society at UAlbany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, issued 10 recommendations Friday at a special event held at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy.

Most of the recommendations center around education, workforce development and making all of the region's new opportunities available to all sectors of the community.

A panel moderated by Mark Eagan, CEO of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, also reacted to the recommendations during the event, called Tech Valley Futures.

Eagan and others urged that the Capital Region take advantage of the growing technology sector before it is too late.

"At this point, it's still opportunity, and we could screw it up," Eagan said. "If it was easy, it would be done already."

A more in-depth description of the recommendations will be included in tomorrow's print edition of the Times Union.

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Tech forum says it's all about jobs

Recommendations by panel members focus on relevant curriculum

By LARRY RULLISON
Business writer

TROY — About 200 people came to Hudson Valley Community College on Friday to hear the latest recommendations of the Tech Valley Civic Forum.

The branchchild of Judith Sidel, executive director of the University at Albany's Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, the Tech Valley Civic Forum recruited about 80 volunteers to come up with a set of recommendations for the region so it can take advantage of the expected technology boom.

The group, split into four task forces, came up with 10 recommendations after meeting for 15 months. The recommendations were unveiled at a day-long event called Tech Valley Futures.

Overwhelmingly, they urged local communities to better prepare children for jobs of the future and ensure that all students — even those from underprivileged school districts — receive the same opportunities.

FORUM: It's all about tech jobs and education

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year college.

"You know what? Some of the girls might have a much more fulfilling future (without it)," she said. "I think it's starting to shift. At least

it's something we should think about."

Mario Musolino, executive deputy commissioner of the state Department of Labor, was part of a policy panel that debated the recommendations. He said that if

One of the volunteers was Albany Common Council member Carolyn McLaughlin. She said she wants to make sure the curriculum being developed at local school districts to train students for the jobs of the future is available to all students.

"Knowledge is power," McLaughlin said. "The future of the Capital Region depends on the widespread distribution of those tools. We have to make sure that curriculum is not available just to a select few."

Sidel and others made it clear that the forum is focusing on creating so-called "middle-skill" jobs.

that require only a high school diploma or a two-year college degree. They said those jobs would be important in helping low-income families and the poor benefit from the technology economy.

Sidel said a four-year degree is not necessary for all jobs in the technology sector, including many at the \$4.2 billion computer chip factory being built by GlobalFoundries Inc. in Malta.

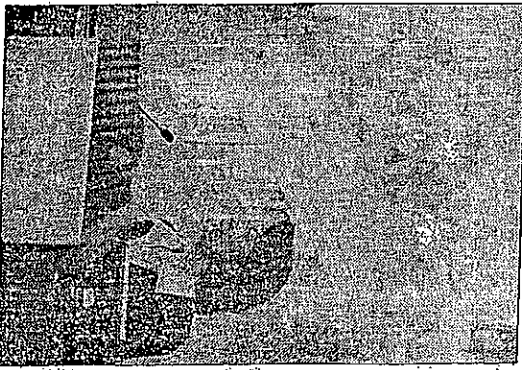
That could produce a shift in thinking about education that Sidel says has changed her mind about whether her own granddaughters need to attend a four-year college. Please see **FORUM B9** ▶

secondary education was going to train students for technology jobs, it would take more than just a new curriculum.

"Focusing on the skills that teachers have makes a lot of sense," Musolino said.

To learn more about the Tech Valley Futures event online, visit <http://www.techvalleyfutures.org>.

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JEANNIE LORCH of Shenendehowa High School speaks to audience members at Tech Valley Civic Forum on Friday.

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a publication of the albany-colonie regional chamber of commerce

Thursday, May 21

Topic: Tech Valley
Civic Forum Update
Presented by Tech Valley
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This panel discussion will update the Tech Valley Civic Forum begun in 2007 and preview the May 29 Tech Valley Futures event, which will feature the release of a first-ever Community Progress Report. Join presenters Judith R. Saidel, Center for Women in Government and Civil Society; Raona Roy, Tech Valley High; Bryant Cassella, KeyBank Capital Region; and Carolyn McLaughlin, Majority Leader, Albany Common Council, for this important look at the synergy between the non-profit community and the public and private sector.

11:30am -1pm / Italian American Community Center, 257 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany
Cost: \$15; Albany-Colonie and Schenectady County Chamber members only

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