



ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Phone: (973) 300-1988

Email address: mail@scedp.com



December 2020

SCEDP welcomes 2021 Chairman of the Board Dr. Jon Connolly, Sussex County Community College

Dr. Jon Connolly was elected to serve as 2021 Chairman of the Board. Dr. Connolly is the president of Sussex County Community College. He has served as the Team Lead for the Presidents' Council at the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, and will be the incoming President for the American Technical Education Association.

He has served in many roles at community colleges around the country including Academic Dean, Academic Vice President, College Vice President, and Chief Facilities Officer. During his community college career, he has focused on workforce and economic development.



Dr. Connolly graduated from Colby College in 1987 with majors in both Biology and Geology-Biology, holds a Master of Forest Science degree from the Yale University

School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and earned his Ph.D. in Biological Science from the University of Maine in 1996.

“It is my distinct pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership. Sussex County is poised to expand its economic base and add new businesses despite the recent challenges brought by the pandemic. The current hot real estate market is a leading economic indicator that projects opportunity for those who are prepared to seize it. The SCEDP continues to be a facilitator at moments like this for the county.” stated Dr. Connolly.

Sussex County Economic Development Partnership, Inc.

2021 Chairman of the Board:

Dr. Jon Connolly, Sussex County Community College

2021 SCEDP Trustees:

Jessica Caldwell, J. Caldwell Associates
William Close, Township of Sparta
Jacqueline Espinoza, JCP&L, a First Energy Co.
Miles Kuperus, Farmside Landscape & Design
Thomas Madsen, Tom Madsen LLC
Keri Marino, Provident Bank
Keith Niedergall, Lakeland Bank
Joshua Hertzberg, County of Sussex Freeholder
Gregory Poff, County of Sussex Administrator
Thomas Ryan, Laddey, Clark & Ryan, LLP

Staff:

Tammie Horsfield, President
John Drake, SCEDP Director of Client Services



SCEDP STRATEGIC PLAN TO BE RE-EVALUATED IN 2021

The SCEDP will revisit its Strategic Plan in 2021.

2020 SCEDP Chairwoman Jackie Espinoza, JCP&L, stated that the Plan, which was the focus of 2020, will be re-evaluated in 2021 under the direction of incoming Chair Dr. Jon Connolly, President of Sussex County Community College. The plan will reflect on the economic impact Covid-19 has had on our businesses and communities.

The Strategic Plan, a culmination of more than a year of planning, goal setting, and thought-provoking work sessions was based on research and assessment of current initiatives at the time and previous goals. The strategic plan, also includes a new mission and vision.

Dr. Connolly, 2021 Chair, stated that “The SCEDP’s strategic plan provides a blueprint for action and data utilization that can assist current employers and help prospective businesses grow.” The updated plan is expected to be completed in the spring of 2021.

Primary focus areas in the current plan:

Business Climate

Goal: To promote a climate within Sussex County that continually fosters business-friendly initiatives designed to promote sustainable economic development through recruiting and retaining businesses.

Data & Research

Goal: To provide and utilize data and research to help advocate for, and guide

municipalities, governmental entities and potential and current businesses in the development and expansion of sustainable economic development within Sussex County.

Marketing & Public Relations

Goal: To promote and advocate with, and for potential and current businesses, governmental entities, and other organizations on initiatives geared towards sustainable economic development within Sussex County.

Partnerships & Relationships

Goal: To collaborate and facilitate discussions with potential and current businesses, governmental entities, and other organizations involved in the development and expansion of economic development within Sussex County.

WISHING YOU A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Covid-19 SCEDP Assistance

The SCEDP's focus throughout the Covid – 19 pandemic has been on the retention of business by providing information and assistance with grants and loans, permits and licenses, and keeping businesses up to date on executive orders and other regulatory issues. The SCEDP continues to market the county as a great place to live, work and play as the demand for homes and businesses has shifted to rural areas as people react to the coronavirus pandemic. Examples of additional assistance provided this year include:

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

The SCEDP is working closely with all Sussex County municipalities to provide up to date information related to executive orders, administrative updates and more. In addition, the organization surveyed towns throughout the pandemic seeking information related to business needs and closures, municipal grants and loan opportunities, FEMA relief, Cares Act Funding and more, in order to assist with their needs.

SUSSEX COUNTY BUSINESSES - GET ON THE MAP!

The County of Sussex, in partnership with the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership and the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce, created a GIS mapping tool to help local businesses connect with residents as the county recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The interactive map informs residents and businesses about what is open and how the business is operating.

AREA BUSINESSES COMPLETED SURVEYS

Businesses were asked to share with us the impact COVID-19 has had on their places of employment. Businesses were surveyed twice in the last 6 months to gauge the effects of Covid-19 and to better understand their needs..

ONE ON ONE BUSINESS & RESIDENT ASSISTANCE

Early in the pandemic, the SCEDP placed advertisements in the local press offering assistance to any businesses and towns in the County that needed help finding grants and loans, completing applications and more. Numerous businesses and town officials reached out for assistance and the SCEDP was able to assist. In addition, the SCEDP has assisted many businesses and their employees with Family Leave, PUA and unemployment concerns.

NEW BUSINESS & EXPANSION EFFORTS

The SCEDP continues to assist several businesses with expansion efforts during the pandemic. Some projects are expected to break ground in the spring. Both commercial and residential real estate assistance has grown. The SCEDP continues to maintain an inventory of building and properties to share information with interested parties.

Sussex County Economic Development Partnership, Inc. *Services & Activities*

- ◆ **Information & Demographics:** Fast, comprehensive and accurate information on all aspects of Sussex County. GIS mapping services for site location and online demographics for one click answers.
- ◆ **Local and State Liaison:** Business advocacy and intervention through our working relationships with town, county, state and federal government as well as public utilities and organizations active in economic development.
- ◆ **Expansion:** Friendly encouraging assistance for businesses seeking to take their company to the next level.
- ◆ **Site Location:** A comprehensive County inventory of commercial space, including both listed and private properties and buildings for sale or lease.
- ◆ **Start Up Assistance:** Guidance, referrals and resources for entrepreneurs seeking to start their own business.
- ◆ **Utilities:** Infrastructure information and readiness and navigation assistance in regulatory matters.
- ◆ **Financing Assistance:** Referrals on available financing options for your business.
- ◆ **Labor:** Workforce training and maximization assistance.
- ◆ **Recruitment:** targeted industries, complimentary to the County that will provide necessary jobs, tax ratable and services to improve the quality of life in Sussex County.

SCEDP MISSION

The Sussex County Economic Development Partnership, Inc. (SCEDP) is dedicated to fostering sustainable economic development through promoting strategic opportunities, developing solutions for the attraction and retention of key county industries, and facilitating collaboration between businesses, municipalities, and community partners.



DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AFFECTS EVERYONE

The SCEDP serves as a facilitator to bring diverse interests seeking economic opportunity to Sussex County.

Need assistance?

**Contact us at:
(973) 300-1988**

mail@scedp.com
Tammie Horsfield, President
John Drake, Director of Client Services

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT is published periodically to keep the community aware of new developments and current events important to the economy of Sussex County. If you need assistance or are interested in becoming an investor, please call us. 973-300-1988 or email mail@scedp.com.