

GREATER SOUTHERN DUTCHESS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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FOR RELEASE: EMBARGOED until 12.17.07

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**Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce Launches
Young Professionals of the Hudson Valley**
*Press Conference Welcomes New York's First Lady, Silda Wall Spitzer
and Announces "The Hub"*

Wappingers Falls, NY...Wanting to make the Hudson Valley a better place for young professionals, the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce today launched Young Professionals of the Hudson Valley, "The Hub," at a press conference announcing the new informal peer networking organization.

Inspired by New York's First Lady Silda Wall Spitzer's "I Live NY" strategy, the Hub's intention is to make the Hudson Valley a better place for young professionals to live, work, play and stay. It will better facilitate connections among the Hudson Valley's young professional community, paying particular attention to supporting the Hudson Valley's continued economic growth. "That's because the more informed, involved and networked young professionals are, the more likely they will stay in the region, and the more influence they can have on what the region becomes," said Ann Meagher, President of the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce. Meagher said "the Hub will connect ambitious young professionals to the Hudson Valley's unique cultural, recreational, social, volunteer and professional development opportunities."



**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
OF THE HUDSON VALLEY**

"The name, 'The Hub,' was chosen by our core committee to establish ourselves as the center of activity or interest or commerce; a focal point around which events revolve," said Todd Hutton, Local Sales Manager for Cumulus Broadcasting and Chair of The Hub's Advisory Council that includes 13 young leaders and entrepreneurs representing a cross section of business and industry.

Serving as Vice Chair is Robyn Williams, Vice President, Southern Dutchess Market Manager for Rhinebeck Savings Bank. Advisory Council members include Judy Annunziata (Edible Arrangements (Newburgh), Kenneth Roher Salon and Umbertos Mama Marisa); Ian Linders (McCabe & Mack); Christopher Short (NXP Semiconductors); Michael Valentino (Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union); Corey Whitted (Hudson Valley Renegades); Andrew MacFarlane (Momentum Advertising & Design); Courtney Mitchell (Health Quest); Trista Parker (Health Quest); and Scott Sweeney (AG Edwards & Sons, Inc.). Also serving on the Advisory Council are the Chamber's Meagher and Karolyn Osborne, Vice President of Programs & Development.

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The Hub’s objectives are to make the Hudson Valley a better place for young professionals to:

- **Live**, recognizing that the unique character and wonderful assets of our area makes the Hudson Valley the ideal place to establish one’s roots;
- **Work**, embracing regional career opportunities because of the economic success and strength of the Hudson Valley;
- **Play**, enjoying the Hudson Valley’s recreational, natural and historic resources—in all four seasons; and
- **Stay**, understanding that the Hudson Valley is “home.” It is the place where young professionals will want to remain for generations to come.

Members of The Hub live, work and play in the Hudson River Valley Region. Specific focus is on building a network in the mid-Hudson area including Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties. Events will be held in all three counties during the calendar year. From professional development to social events and charitable endeavors, The Hub covers important aspects of a young professional’s life. Joining The Hub can help a person meet new people, give back to the community and grow his or her career while learning about and experiencing all the wonderful things that are happening in the Hudson Valley.

For further information and to join The Hub, call Karolyn Osborne at 845.296.0001 or visit the www.hubhv.com.

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**The Hub - Young Professionals of the Hudson Valley
Our Mission**

**Live and learn.
Lead.
Grow—both personally and professionally.
Be responsible.
Be active.
Network effectively.
Give back.
Support each other.
Honor the happy hour.
And have fun.**