

Dear Community Friend,

**JOIN US IN "WELCOMING" OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS TO THE MOHAWK VALLEY REGION!**

Starting this month, more than 20,000 college students will be starting or returning to school at our area's 11 colleges, including Colgate University, Empire State College, Hamilton College, Herkimer County Community College, Mohawk Valley Community College, Pratt at Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, St. Elizabeth College of Nursing, SUNYIT, State University College at Morrisville, USC-The Business College, and Utica College. Roughly half of these students are from outside our region, our state or even our country. The rest are local students choosing to stay in the area. These students, their families, and the faculty and staff that are serving them are a major part of our economy! They also represent our strongest hope for a good, well-educated workforce for tomorrow!

**HELP US TO ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS.** The Genesis Group and some of its regional partners including, The Chamber Alliance of the Mohawk Valley (including the chambers of Rome, Herkimer County, Clinton, New Hartford, Camden, Trenton, Marcy, Boonville and Kuyahoorra Valley), The Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce, The Oneida County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mohawk Valley EDGE and Capraro Technologies (who donated this website) and many others, have organized this Welcome Student Initiative to help our area students feel more welcome, not only on their campus, but in the region that they will be calling home for at least the next 10 months, or 2 to 4 years or more. This new addition to our website is being promoted on all 11 area college campuses for students to explore and use as a resource!

**YOU CAN BE PART OF OUR WELCOME EFFORT, FOR FREE !** When you check out our website, you will see a list of "participating businesses" and discounts or incentives they wish to offer students who will show their valid student ID. **ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO JOIN**, is to email your business name and address, your contact name and email, and the discount or incentive you wish to offer (at least for August 10 - September 30). We will post this for you at no charge, and provide you with a "College Community Network" sticker or sign to place in your window.

**COME ON THE RED CARPET COMMITTEE!** Contact us, or any of our regional partners, and we will be glad to have you help us welcome more than 20,000 college students to their new academic year. Good for you, good for them and great for our region!

***Thank you for your interest!***

Raymond J. Durso Jr.

Executive Director

The Genesis Group

and The College Community Network