

# Pattern for Progress

## Improving the Quality of Life Through Regional Solutions

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Regional Conference Focuses on Municipal Collaboration

Oct. 5 Event Presented by Pattern for Progress, SUNY New Paltz, Pace Michaelian Institute for Public Policy and Management, New York State Department of State

NEWBURGH—Pattern for Progress will join New York's Department of State, Pace University's Michaelian Institute for Public Policy and Management and SUNY New Paltz on Oct. 5 in presenting a far-reaching conference designed to help municipal officials and others access New York State's Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) grant program.

This conference, which will be held at the SUNY New Paltz Student Union Building, will encourage intermunicipal cooperation and advance new ideas that promote the sharing of municipal services and assist officials looking to access the nearly \$14 million in funding the state has allocated to support a new round of SMSI grants.

"This conference represents an important opportunity for elected officials and professional municipal employees to look at ways to restructure the delivery of services," said Jonathan Drapkin, president and CEO of Pattern for Progress, a nonprofit regional policy, planning and advocacy organization. "And it will give officials already considering a shared service collaboration access to state officials who can help them seek supportive funding."

"Experience has shown that sharing services is an effective and efficient solution for local governments confronted with severe budget constraints and increasing constituent demands for services," said Lester Steinman, director of the Michaelian Institute's Municipal Law Resource Center. "In addition to documenting the fiscal and operational benefits of sharing services, the conference will educate government leaders on how to successfully apply for state funding for these initiatives."

Noted Columbia University Law School Associate Dean Richard Briffault will serve as keynote speaker at the conference. Mr. Briffault has written extensively on the adaptability of local government and he has held numerous posts exploring how best to reform and revise government bureaucracies.

Among his many positions, Mr. Briffault advised the New York City Charter Revision Commission, 1987-89; was a consultant to the New York State Commission on Constitutional Revision, 1993-94; served as a visiting scholar at the Taubman Center for State and Local Government, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1996-97; and was the executive director, Special Commission on Campaign Finance Reform of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, 1998-2000.

"Achieving local government reform is among the highest priorities for New York State," said Gerald Benjamin, Dean of SUNY New Paltz's College of Liberal Arts. "I am delighted that we will be hosting local leaders from across the region on our campus for this effort to advance the latest reform ideas and support their access to resources for collaborative efforts."

Sponsors for the conference include Provident Bank, Construction Contractors Association, Clough Harbor and Associates, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, The Chazen Companies, M&T Bank, AKRF Inc. and New York State Department of State.

The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Union Building at SUNY New Paltz. Registration for the event is \$35. For more information on registration contact Robin DeGroat at Pattern for Progress at 845-565-4900.