

Initiative at CCC to give new tools to local governments | Local News

SUZANNE MOORE Editor

PLATTSBURGH — The fledgling Center for Governance at Clinton Community College will take wing this coming Tuesday as it hosts a presentation on open government.

"We are very excited about the new Center for Governance at CCC," Steven G. Frederick said in an email.

Patterned after the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz, the local incarnation has been under development over the past year, said Frederick, who is vice president for institutional advancement at CCC.

The Benjamin Center is a regional training center for local governance, he said.

The Center for Governance here has tapped three broad areas for attention from the standpoint of local government, Frederick said: Education/Training, Communication/Engagement, and Research.

He and a few other civic-minded locals are spearheading creation of the initiative: former Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, Plattsburgh Town Supervisor Michael Cashman, CCC history professor Dr. Chris Drennan and professor Tom Mandeville of the college's History Department.

The Center for Governance at CCC is "very much in the infancy stage," Frederick said, but the aim is to create a resource for "local government entities to turn to for information, training, workshops, speakers, etc."

INSPIRED BY

The Benjamin Center, according to its website, "independently and in collaboration with local governments, businesses and not-for-profits in the Hudson Valley ... conducts studies on topics of regional and statewide importance; brings visibility and focus to these matters; fosters communities working together to better serve our citizenry; and advances the public interest in our region."

It also "connects our region with the expertise of SUNY New Paltz faculty. We assist in all aspects of applied research, evaluation and policy analysis.

"We provide agencies and businesses with the opportunity to obtain competitive grants, achieve efficiencies, and identify implementable areas for success."

ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

An always popular speaker will take the stage for the Center for Governance's debut event.

Robert J. Freeman, executive director of the state's Department of State Committee on Open Government, will share his expertise on that topic.

The presentation, set for 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, in the theater of the Stafford Science and

Technology building at CCC, is free and open to the public.

And organizers will take advantage of the opportunity to distribute surveys inviting input on topics audience members would like to learn more about.

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