



Brian T. McMahon
Executive Director

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Steve DiMeo of Mohawk Valley EDGE and Joe Russo of National Grid named Co-Economic Developers of the Year at the New York State Economic Development Council's 2016 Annual Meeting

Steve DiMeo of Mohawk Valley EDGE and Joe Russo of National Grid were each presented with 2016 Economic Developer of the Year awards on Thursday evening at the annual meeting of the New York State Economic Development Council in Cooperstown. The award winners were selected by NYSEDC's Executive Committee.

Nominations are submitted during the year based on several criteria, including:

- Outstanding performance in public or private sector in developing and administering an economic development program.
- Distinguished service to one's community by providing leadership in stimulating local economic development.
- Demonstrated commitment to NYSEDC, its programs and its policies.
- Demonstrated interest in assisting colleagues within the economic development profession.
- Demonstrated commitment to economic education and training.

"New York State has some of the top economic development professionals in the country," said Brian McMahon, Executive Director of NYSEDC. "Joe Russo and Steve DiMeo exemplify the quality and depth of development professionals serving communities throughout New York State."

Joe Russo is Economic Development Program Manager for National Grid. Russo has served NYSEDC with distinction in many roles. From 2009-2014, Joe Russo served as NYSEDC's Economic Development Course director, where he helped mentor new people to the economic development profession.

He has served as the Business Marketing Committee Chair for NYSEDC since 2001, and has led NYSEDC to vastly expand its lead generation marketing activities in partnership with Empire State Development.

Russo is part of an economic development team that has administered more than \$70 million in grants to local and regional EDOs since 2003. He has been instrumental in developing and implementing his organization's Manufacturing Productivity Program, which provides matching grants for "lean" manufacturing and growth-oriented projects designed to utilize excess manufacturing capacity.

He is an essential part of economic development in the North Country where he has been responsible for:

- More than 25 Manufacturing Productivity Program grants

Leadership. Advocacy. Professional Development.

William G. Mannix
Town of Islip IDA
CHAIR

Steven G. Hyde
Genesee County Economic
Development Center
CHAIR-ELECT

Marnie LaVigne
Launch NY
VICE-CHAIR

George E. Miner
Southern Tier Economic Growth, Inc.
VICE-CHAIR / TREASURER

Judy Seil
County of Monroe IDA
VICE-CHAIR

Patrick J. Kelly
St. Lawrence County IDA
SECRETARY

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- Strategic marketing initiatives with Montgomery, Fulton and Franklin Counties, as well as the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization.
- A portfolio of very impactful “Main Street Revitalization” projects that are restoring vacant buildings to productive use in several Northern NY communities.
- Brownfield redevelopment projects in Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties
- Extensive work with the agribusiness sector.

Joe Russo has always been there for the communities he serves. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, he was instrumental in the development and deployment of groundbreaking emergency economic development grant programs, which concentrated on heavily flooded portions of Schoharie Montgomery Counties. A short year later, Russo volunteered to help administer a similar – but much larger -- program to help businesses in New York City and Long Island recover from the devastating impacts of Superstorm Sandy.

Steve DiMeo is the President and CEO of Mohawk Valley EDGE. He has served his community for 32 years in economic development leadership roles.

He was appointed in 1993 to help redevelop a 3,600 acre closed military base, which cost the some 6,500 jobs. His leadership also led to the creation of a two-county economic development organization, which he runs and which is now entering its 20th year!

In 2004, DiMeo was named Developer of the Year by NAID/ADC, an association of defense contractors, for his hand in guiding redevelopment of the abandoned Griffiss Air Base. Steve’s leadership led to the creation of over 6,000 employees and 70 private sector businesses in the span of a decade.

Steve DiMeo has put his mark on many transformational projects, from urban reinvestment, to industrial and office parks, to the mega deal. And, in 2015, Mohawk Valley EDGE announced the development of AMS AG at the SUNY Poly Marcy site in Utica; a \$685 million semiconductor factory, and a facility Steve has been nurturing for almost two decades! Upon completion he will have directed one of the largest public-private partnerships in upstate New York and the creation of thousands of jobs in a distressed community.

The New York State Economic Development Council has represented local and regional economic development professionals, as well colleges and universities and private sector enterprises for more than 40 years. Its mission is to support members through advocacy, professional development, lead generation, collaboration, and creating opportunities to retain and attract investment and jobs to our communities.