



CENTERSTATE
CORPORATION FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

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CenterState CEO Celebrates 2018's Economic Champions!

*302 Companies Recognized for Creating Jobs; Growth
and Expansion; Capital Investments; New Business
Openings and Milestones*

CenterState CEO Community Visionary Award Presented to
KeyBank; Community Champion Award Presented to Onondaga County
Executive Joanie Mahoney

SYRACUSE, NY – **CenterState CEO's Economic Champions Luncheon**, presented by Fust Charles Chambers LLP, brought together a record crowd of more than 1,000 businesses, community leaders and guests to the Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center at Oncenter. During the event, CenterState CEO recognized **302** companies as 2018 Economic Champions for their collective hiring of more than **2,600** employees, **1.2 million square-feet of expansions**, and nearly **\$750 million in capital investments**. More than **80 new businesses** were recognized for opening their doors and **68 were highlighted for celebrating a milestone anniversary**, speaking to businesses' commitment to the local and regional economy. Companies were nominated as Economic Champions for their accomplishments throughout the year by peers, employees and staff.

"In the 15 years since I moved back to Syracuse I have never seen the level of economic activity, across nearly every industry sector, that we do today," said Robert Simpson, president of CenterState CEO. "The current macro-economic environment is strong and reflected in the fact that we celebrate a record number of champions this year. This high level of growth and opportunity energizes all of us at CenterState CEO. Whether it's a small business looking for more visibility; a large firm needing support attracting talent; a local company looking to expand its global reach; a global company looking to grow in the region; or an entrepreneur with an idea and a dream to be their own boss, we are here to offer our support."

The luncheon also featured keynote remarks by Jeremy Garelick, who spoke about his vision to strengthen the region's film industry and the progress being driven by his film production company, America High.



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“I am proud of the films American High has been able to produce locally, and the potential impact this has on the region’s growing film industry,” said Garelick. “Through American High we have focused on creating high quality, creative films that will attract investment and lead to new opportunities to grow a local workforce. This community has the talent and capabilities, and it is exciting to see the risk we took in establishing our company here be rewarded.”

The **CenterState CEO Community Visionary Award**, sponsored by Wegmans Food and Pharmacy, was presented to KeyBank, for its leadership and commitment to community initiatives that create greater community prosperity, including its proactive efforts to bring the Business Boost & Build program, powered by JumpStart, to Syracuse; helping expand entrepreneurship and prosperity in our community through the growth of women and minority owned businesses; its lending and other investments in affordable housing and first time home buying; and its support of local programs and organizations, like Jubilee Homes’ Build to Work program, to help create opportunities for veterans and the un- and underemployed.

“What truly makes KeyBank so deserving of this award is its longstanding commitment to the community,” said Evelyn Ingram, director of community relations at Wegmans. “Whether it’s KeyBank’s dedication to supporting entrepreneurs and workforce programs, or its commitment to programs that enable homeownership, Key’s ambitious community impact plan is focused on investing in efforts that help create real progress in Central New York. Wegmans is proud to support CenterState CEO’s Community Visionary Award, and to recognize KeyBank for all their efforts.”

“All of us at KeyBank are honored and humbled to receive the 2018 Community Visionary Award from our great partners at CenterState CEO,” said Stephen Fournier, KeyBank Central New York Market President. “This award reflects the deep ties and commitment our employees have to serving this region. From philanthropic investments to responsible community development and mortgage lending, all of our work in Syracuse and Central New York is centered around one purpose: to help this community thrive. We look forward to continuing to work and partner with organizations and individuals in this area for years to come.”

The event also featured a special recognition of Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney, who was presented with CenterState CEO’s inaugural **Community Champion Award** for her outstanding leadership and legacy of positive impact on the region’s economy and the citizens of Onondaga County.

County Executive Joanie Mahoney said, “It has been the goal of my administration from day one to make sure our community is a place our children could stay and find real economic opportunity. From investments like the St. Joseph’s Health Amphitheater at Lakeview to the burgeoning film industry; the new and improved Great New York State Fair, the formation and success of the Agriculture Council and the millions invested in our downtown, Onondaga County is truly a great place to live and a community that our children can be proud to call home. Congratulations to all of the 2018 Economic Champions and thank you for honoring me with this award.”



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About CenterState CEO

CenterState CEO is an independent and forward thinking economic development strategist, business leadership organization and chamber of commerce; dedicated to the success of its members and the prosperity of the region. We serve as an advocate and resource for smart business, catalyze and facilitate regional growth, and promote community prosperity through results-driven partnerships, planning and problem-solving. www.centerstateceo.com

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2018 Economic Champions

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