



Assemblyman Stirpe Appointed Chair of Economic Development Committee

I am honored that Speaker Carl E. Heastie has appointed me to serve as Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce, and Industry. I have hit the ground running by advancing legislation that aims to support vital sectors, provide strategic investments in business development programs, and grow technology and advanced manufacturing industries across New York.

To support these initiatives, we have introduced several key programs and funding opportunities. The One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships (ON-RAMP) will establish regional development centers located along the I-90 Corridor. FAST-NY is a shovel-ready grant program that will support the preparation and development of prospective development sites. NY-RUSH, or Redevelopment of Underutilized Sites for Housing, will support the repurposing of property owned by state agencies for use as housing. In today's quickly advancing technological

world, NY State is moving forward with \$250 million for the Empire Artificial Intelligence Computing Consortium. We also have \$500 million in capital funding to support the Albany NanoTech Complex's High NA Extreme Ultraviolet Lithography Center.



State budget Supports Students, Bolsters the CNY Regional Economy & Controls Illegal Cannabis Sales

Throughout budget negotiations, I worked hard to secure the funding and resources to support Central New Yorkers. The enacted 2024-25 state budget comes through for our communities by making significant investments in education for students from all walks of life and tackling illegal cannabis sales.

New York's students are the future of our country, and the state budget helps ensure that they get every chance to succeed. The final state budget includes a total of \$24.9 billion in Foundation aid, nearly a \$935 million increase from last year. To help SUNY keep delivering affordable, exceptional higher education for people from all backgrounds, the budget expands the income threshold for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) from \$80,000 to \$125,000 for dependent students, \$40,000 to \$60,000 for independent married students, and the cutoff for independent single students tripled to \$30,000. Additionally, the budget raises the minimum TAP award to \$1,000 per student.

Students from all walks of life deserve to have quality education. The final spending plan includes a total of \$9.8 million for Adult Literacy Education. I also supported a budget that increases funding to our public libraries for a total of \$103.9 million as well as \$44 million for additional Library Capital.

In the final budget, I've also made sure budget negotiations didn't leave out investments towards our regional economy. I secured \$350,000 for the CNY On Camera program as part of CNY Film Professionals' broader economic development program. The CNY On Camera program will sustainably grow

our film sector and pave the way for more job opportunities for our Central New York residents. Additionally, I helped secure \$150,000 for the Syracuse Jazzfest to bolster the biggest free music event in the northeast that is hosted every year right here in Downtown Syracuse.

I am also pleased that the state budget takes decisive action against the scourge of illicit cannabis. As New York rolls out its legal cannabis program, a wave of unscrupulous stores has endangered the public with unregulated, unsafe products and threatened the viability of businesses that are doing things the right way. The budget authorizes the State Office of Cannabis Management to immediately padlock any storefronts acting in bad faith. We also increased fines and penalties for illegal sales and inspection evasion, along with empowering local governments to adopt their own regulations. These commonsense efforts will help keep cannabis out of the hands of minors and ensure that responsible adult users can enjoy New York cannabis products without fearing for their health and safety.

To Contact our Office:
7293 Buckley Rd
North Syracuse, NY 13212
315.452.1115
stirpea@nyassembly.gov

FUNDING AROUND THE DISTRICT

This past year, I have been able to award \$1,750,000 in grants to help several of my constituents address their critical capital project and programmatic needs.

With a \$200,000 grant **North Syracuse Central School District** will be making renovations to the **Early Education Program Main Street School**.

East Syracuse Minoa School District will be replacing the fire and smoke detector alarm system at the **High School** with their \$200,000 grant.

The **Town of Cazenovia** will use a \$500,000 grant to address several projects associated with its water quality upgrades at the Mt. Pleasant Water District and its Water Pollution Control Facility.

The **Town of Manlius** was awarded \$175,000 to provide the Town **Police** with climate sensitive solar-powered signage and two hybrid patrol vehicles.

A new training and storage building will now be possible for the **Brewerton Fire Department** with a \$125,000 grant defraying the cost.

The **North Area Meals on Wheels** is expanding facilities and will be building a 2,400 square foot addition, making renovations to its existing building, and installing solar panels funded in part by a \$300,000 grant.

The **Central New York Jazz Arts Foundation** received \$35,000 to help foster summer music programs.

The **Business Incubator Association of NYS** was awarded \$45,000 to coordinate NY's 10 regional Hotspots.

Center State CEO received \$50,000 in funding for programming.

The **Friends of the Canteen** received \$15,000 to offer mental health counseling to students.

The **Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY** will be using their \$15,000 grant for their economic opportunity program.

To keep our communities aware of the threat of ticks, \$25,000 was awarded to the **Central New York Lyme and Tick Borne Disease Alliance**.

The **Liverpool Turkey Trot** will use its \$25,000 grant to support their event and mission to give back to our community.

To encourage year-round tourism, **CazArts** was awarded \$40,000 for planning and marketing.

In addition, \$2,500,000 was awarded to **AccessCNY** to help fund the construction of a new facility in Cicero. This \$3,700,000 project will be the first in New York State to serve those with the dual diagnoses of both disabilities and mental illness. The roughly 8,500 square foot space will serve this population by providing respite care, counseling, skill and sensory spaces and several crisis beds.

Valentines for Veterans

I was overwhelmed by our community's participation in my annual Valentines for Veterans event. I sincerely appreciate all the students who created 100's of letters, artwork, and heartfelt messages of thanks to show your support for our Veterans! I know your thoughtfulness, respect and support is valued by our local veterans.



CANAL CLEAN SWEEP

I'd like to thank all the volunteers who came out for our annual Earth Day - Canal Cleanup and worked alongside my staff (and my wife) picking up bottles, cans and other trash. Great job by everyone! This was the first Earth Day cleanup I missed in 16 years but was still in Albany getting the budget done. The Erie Canal Park in Minoa is looking good and ready for your next visit.

Celebrating This Year's Women of Distinction

Since 1987, we have celebrated March as Women's History Month as a way to honor the countless women who have triumphed over adversity, established themselves as cultural icons and made their mark on the world. We held our 12th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 23rd at the Manlius Town Hall. Each year I am humbled by the talent and dedication of so many women in the district. I was honored to recognize these five remarkable women:

Colleen Belge for **Dedication to Community Service**. For almost half a century, Colleen has served as an upstanding social worker who takes time out of her busy schedule to volunteer for a variety of services to support those in need. She started her first position for People's Equal Action and Community Effort (PEACE). Colleen then moved on to take more senior positions at the Huntington Family Center (HFC), facilitating daily meals and providing information for other local services, among other responsibilities.



Coopers & Lybrand. She is the founder of The Athelda Fund and the Memory Care Corral.

Heidi Menikheim Exemplifies Success in Business. Heidi is the epitome of a hard worker who consistently goes above and beyond to ensure everyone feels welcome and comfortable. She manages Seneca Street Brew Pub, the region's first-ever "farm-to-glass" brewing operations, where she works alongside her family brewing beer. Her commitment to creating safe spaces for marginalized communities is evident in the work she's done, including selflessly offering her business to civic and charitable organizations like the Lion's Club, as well as sharing her hard-earned resources with any group or cause that brings benefits to the community. Heidi led the first-ever LGBTQIA+ Pride festival in Manlius and led the second Pride festival last year.



Deborah Cavanaugh is recognized for her **Remarkable Volunteerism**. Deborah is a community advocate and founder of Front Row Players (FRP), an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for adults of all abilities to share their theatrical talents. In 2014, after her daughter Amanda, who has multiple disabilities, graduated from high school, Deborah began looking for more opportunities for Amanda to showcase her talents, which led her to develop FRP for those who are often left out of the performing arts.



Neila Lauretti Brown for her **Contributions to Education**. Neila Lauretti Brown is a consummate educator who has demonstrated her commitment to Central New York communities for more than 50 years. She began her teaching career in the North Syracuse School District at Pitcher Hill Elementary in 1972, later moving to the Smith Road facility. Brown taught first grade for 34 years and was constantly requested by parents because of her excellent teaching skills and unique and engaging programs. During her tenure, she won many awards and wrote numerous successful grant applications to enhance student programs at Smith Road.



Sandra H. Martin for her **Outstanding Service in Health Care**. Sandra has been essential to New York's elder care system for decades, improving and supporting the facilities and hardworking healthcare professionals serving one of our most vulnerable communities. She has served in high-level positions in several medical care facilities throughout her career, including director of the Emergency Medical Service Program at the Hospital Association of Central New York and director of Health Care Consulting Services at international accounting firm



SAVE THE DATE!

Future Recycling Events

ELECTRONICS:

Saturday - July 27, 2024 - 8:30 - Noon
Cicero-North Syracuse High School

PAINT:

Saturday - September 28, 2024

Details to Follow

SECOND ANNUAL PET SUPPLIES DRIVE



Thank you to all who donated to my Second Annual Pet Supplies Drive. What a success! Together we collected over 2800 lbs. of pet food plus collars, blankets, towels, and sweaters. These donations were provided to local organizations Humane CNY, CNY SPCA, the Kia Foundation and Helping Hounds. Amazon partnered with us and donated 1896 lbs. of pet food worth over \$13,000! We couldn't do this without the help of our collection sites at area libraries, the Liverpool Chamber, Earthwise Pet Store, Hairy Notions and of course Country Max who always donates generously to our cause. And a big thank you to Ted and Amy at 93Q for all the support.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I had the opportunity to visit the North Area Meals on Wheels program, where I helped package meals for those in need. In a small way I helped serve their over 300 clients and joined their team of over 275 volunteers preparing and delivering 400 meals daily. There is a growing need for this service as the number of elderly, homebound and disabled climbs. I am pleased that I was able to award a \$300,000 grant to help North Area Meals on Wheels with their building expansion project.

I also toured the Baker Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, gaining valuable insights into healthcare facilities serving our community. I also visited the Emergency Services Department, which saw more than 58,000 visits in 2023. I am grateful to Nurse Manager Lily Barres, RN, Supervisor Brandon Rexford, RN, and Director Hillary Reeves, RN for leading my tour throughout the departments.



NYS Assembly's 2024 Summer Reading Challenge

Reading can transport us to different worlds, keep our minds sharp and provide benefits beyond the summer months! This summer, let the adventure begin at your local public library.

I'm sponsoring a reading challenge to encourage kids to read regularly during the summer break. Those who fulfill a pledge to read at least 15 minutes a day for 40 days will earn a

New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate! The New York State Libraries website (nysl.nysed.gov) can help you find a library near you. Please get in touch with my office if you have questions or if I can help with any other issue.

To find out more visit:

<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Al-Stirpe/story/110441>

SAVE THE DATE!!
Tuesday, July 16
10 am to 8 pm

DV DRIVER'S VILLAGE



 **American Red Cross** 1-800-REDCROSS
redcrossblood.org

First-time donors & walk-ins are welcome!