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County Executive Edwards Joining Accelerate Upstate Summit

BUFFALO, NY – Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards will be part of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's Accelerate Upstate Summit on August 4 and August 5, 2011 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo. The summit focuses on economic development issues in the 40,000 miles that comprise of Upstate New York. Recognizing that two-thirds of New York State's population and political power reside below Tarrytown's Tappan Zee Bridge, Accelerate Upstate participants will build realistic solutions for future growth. The title sponsor for the event is BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York.

“Upstate communities face numerous challenges, but by working together, we can approach the politicians in Albany and Washington with a unified voice,” said County Executive Edwards. “This summit is about being constructive and devising viable strategies for Upstate communities.”

Andrew J. Rudnick, president and CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, said “Rather than rehash and focus on the challenges we face, the two-day dialogue will focus on agreeing upon solutions and positive steps that the Upstaters can take – together as we move forward.”

County Executive Edwards will play a major role in an Elected Officials Round Table hosted by Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown and participating in panel discussions including *Our Connection with Canada*, *Big City: Bigger State*, *Higher Ed as an Economic Driver*, *Where's Our Future Workforce?*, and *Jobs and Investment*.

Other participants include President and CEO of the New York State Development Corporation Ken Adams, former NYS Assemblyman and gubernatorial candidate John Faso, SUNY Levin Institute President and former NBC anchorman Garrick Utley, and Brookings Institution senior fellow and deputy director Amy Liu.

Accelerate Upstate's sessions will be held in numerous downtown Buffalo locations, and participants will be encouraged to suggest avenues for economic growth. Feedback on all sessions will be aggregated into an Accelerate Upstate Action Agenda to be delivered to Albany and Washington following the event.

Chautauqua residents are invited to preregister for Accelerate Upstate at www.thepartnership.org/accelerateupstate.

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