



Think Dutchess Wins NYSEDC Economic Developer of the Year Award

CEO, Sarah Lee and the organization recognized for substantial impact on the community and the economic development industry.

October 12, 2021

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Think Dutchess Alliance for Business has been awarded the Economic Developer of the Year Award from the New York State Economic Development Council (NYSEDC).

“The last year has been filled with unique challenges faced by all economic developers. They handed out PPE, provided guidance to essential businesses, helped with unemployment insurance, assisted with loans and grants to keep a small business open, among many other things during the pandemic,” said NYSEDC President, Ryan Silva. “The NYSEDC was proud to honor and recognize all our members as economic developers of the year. We congratulate Think Dutchess and thank Sarah Lee for her leadership in moving the New York State economy forward.”

The Developer of the Year is awarded to an economic developer who has achieved outstanding performance in developing and administering an economic development program. Additionally, the award-winner has demonstrated commitment to economic education and training, and provided significant support and leadership to one’s community and the NYSEDC.

“I am honored and grateful to receive this award,” said Think Dutchess CEO, Sarah Lee. “My board, team and I strive to keep the business community healthy at all times, but over this past year we were particularly committed to not only surviving but helping our community thrive through our attraction, retention and expansion efforts. It is great honor to receive this award from NYSEDC and share it with them.”

Over the past year, Think Dutchess has attracted more than \$240,000,000 in private investments including the redevelopment of the long-dormant IBM West Campus for a total economic impact of more than \$800,000,000. It has helped create a potential 659 jobs and retained more than 1,000 jobs by providing retention and expansion support.

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About Think Dutchess Alliance for Business

Think Dutchess Alliance for Business is the one-stop shop for business development needs and activities in Dutchess County, New York. A business-led, nationally recognized economic development corporation, Think Dutchess’ mission is to attract, retain, and expand for-profit and not-for-profit businesses in Dutchess County. Think Dutchess' organizational structure includes programs in business retention, expansion and attraction; financial counseling and deal structuring; zoning and permitting; commercial real estate; innovation and technology; strategic marketing and municipal advocacy. For more information about Think Dutchess Alliance for Business, visit www.thinkdutchess.com