Business Incubator Association of New York State, Inc.

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF NEW YORK STATE'S
INCUBATORS & ACCELERATORS

JUNE 16-18, 2026

University at Albany

20TH ANNIVERSARY



AGENDA

DAY 1 - Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Four Incubator Tours & Welcome Reception

1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	First Tour: University at Albany ETEC Building
1:45PM - 2:30 PM	Second Tour: Accelerator for Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences (AMPS)
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Third Tour: STEAM Garden
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM	Fourth Tour: Tech Valley Center of Gravity
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Welcome Reception at The Bunker Guiderland

DAY 2 - Wednesday, June 17, 2026
Conference Sessions, Panels, Keynote & Partnered Event with Startup Tech Valley

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration & Networking Breakfast
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks from BIANYS
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM	Fireside Chat: 20 Years of BIANYS
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	State of the Region: Albany Innovation Highlights
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Networking Break
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Two Concurrent Sessions: • "From Concept to Creation: Integrating Makerspace Resources Into Your Ecosystem" • "Building a Commercial Pipeline Through Industry Partnerships"
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	20th Anniversary Luncheon. Keynote from Empire State Development, Division of Science, Technology, and Innovation
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Two Concurrent Sessions: • "How Entrepreneurial Support Organizations Can Build Partnerships with Regional Venture Capital" • "How Entrepreneurial Support Organizations Can Move Policy"
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Networking Break & Regional Hot Spot Meetup
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Annual BIANYS Members Only Meeting
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Startup Tech Valley Meetup Arrival & Networking
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Five Startup Pitches
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Networking Reception Continues

DAY 3 - Thursday, June 18, 2026
Partnered Event with Upstate Venture Connect Meetup & Two Institute Tours

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Arrival, Snacks & Networking
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Fireside Chat with Anna W. Topol, CEO of QLITHIC
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Concurrent Tours: The RNA Institute OR Albany Nanotech Complex
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Investor Office Hours for Local Founders

WELCOME FROM THE BIANYS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Business Incubator Association of New York State (BIANYS), hosted in partnership with the University at Albany.

This year's gathering is especially meaningful as we celebrate **20 years** of advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development across New York State.

Over the next three days, we invite you to connect with fellow incubator and accelerator leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, university partners, economic development professionals, and policymakers from EVERY corner of the state. Through thoughtful discussions, tours, and networking opportunities, we will explore both the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of incubation and innovation in New York.

Since Its founding in 2006, BIANYS has represented over 130 incubators, accelerators, and innovation centers across New York State. As a nonprofit trade association, our mission is to strengthen New York's innovation economy by helping our members through professional development, collaboration, the sharing of best practices, and most importantly, advocacy for policies that foster entrepreneurship and economic growth. Business incubators play a vital role in helping companies succeed during their most vulnerable, early years. By providing mentorship, strategic guidance, access to resources, incubators help entrepreneurs avoid common pitfalls and accelerate their path to sustainable growth. Studies have shown that 84% of incubator graduates remain in their local communities after graduation, and every public dollar invested in business incubation can generate significant returns in job creation, business growth, and increased economic activity.

As we celebrate BIANYS' 20th Anniversary, we honor the leaders and organizations that have built New York's entrepreneurial support network over the past two decades while looking ahead to the next generation of founders, technologies, and innovators who will shape our future.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable community and for the work you do every day! We are honored to have you with us in Albany and hope you leave energized and connected to new partners and possibilities.

Ariella Trotsenko
Interim Executive Director
Business Incubator Association of New York State (BIANYS)

WELCOME FROM THE BIANYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Univeristy at Buffalo



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Executive Director
CNY Biotech Accelerator



SETH MULLIGAN
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Center for Urban Entrepreneurship, University of Rochester



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Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University at Albany

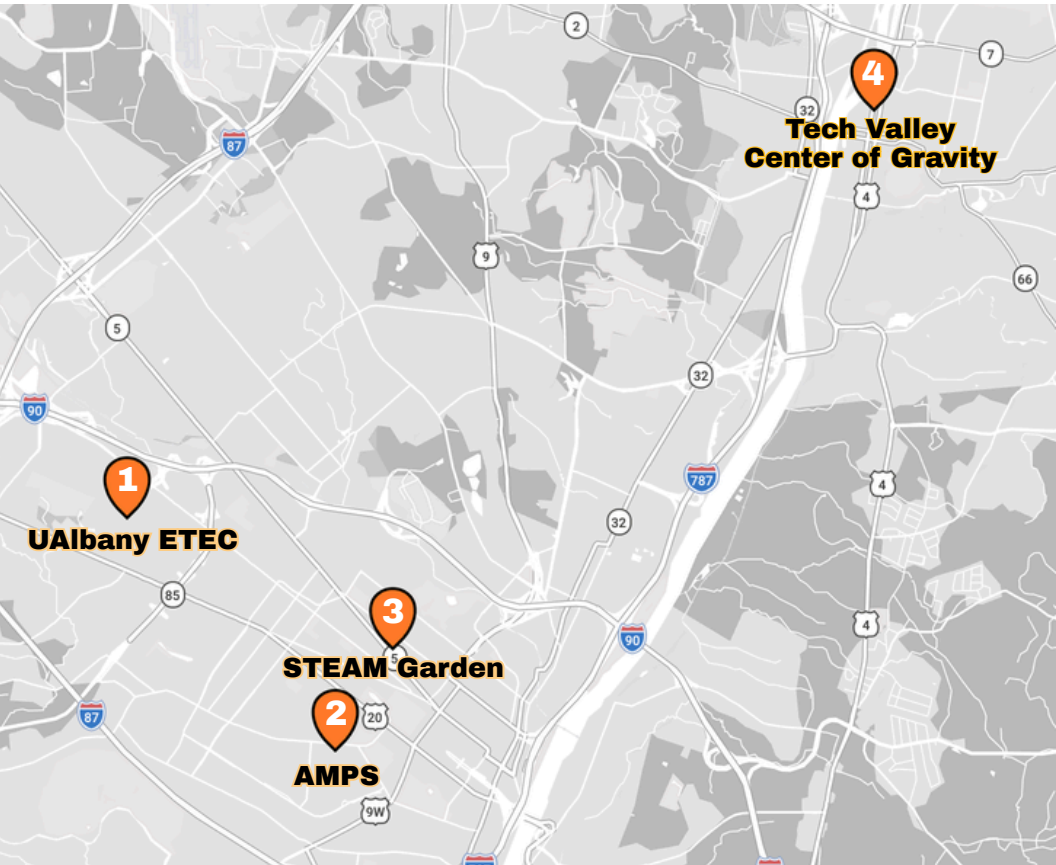


DEBORAH NOVICK
Director of Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Westchester County Office of Economic Development

INCUBATOR BUS TOUR

JUNE 16, 2026

1. **UAlbany ETEC Building**
   1220 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12203
2. **Accelerating Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences (AMPS) Business Incubator**
   150 New Scotland Ave, Albany, NY 12208
3. **STEAM Garden**
   279 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12206
4. **Tech Valley Center of Gravity**
   30 3rd St, Troy, NY 12180



FIRESIDE CHAT: 20 YEARS OF BIANYS

June 17, 2026, 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
Room #149A/151A, “Shared Training Room”



SPEAKER

DAVID HOCHMAN

Founder of BIANYS in 2006
Executive Director for 10 years

STATE OF THE REGION: ALBANY INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

June 17, 2026, 10:15 AM - 10:45 AM
Room #149A/151A, “Shared Training Room”



SPEAKER

MARIA PIDGEON

Director,
Office of Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Industry Partnerships, University at Albany

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

"FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION: INTEGRATING MAKERSPACE RESOURCES INTO YOUR ECOSYSTEM"

June 17, 2026, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Room #203



MODERATOR

DAN FALKENSTROM
Tech Valley Center of Gravity



ERTAI LIU
Founder of Budbreak Innovation



JANET HOLLINGSWORTH
Fabrication Center Director of The Metro at NoVo Foundation



KEN ROTHER
revIthaca and Cornell University

"BUILDING A COMMERCIAL PIPELINE THROUGH INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS"

June 17, 2026, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Room #149A/151A, "Shared Training Room"



MODERATOR

BRETT ORZECHOWSKI
University at Albany



SMITHA JAMES
University at Buffalo Business & Entrepreneur Partnerships



JOY GOSWAMI
RF SUNY



DEVON SHIPP
Clarkson University Center for Advanced Materials Processing (CAMP)

20TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON & KEYNOTE

June 17, 2026, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
B010 Downstairs



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BEN VERSCHUEREN

NYSTAR Executive Director,
Empire State Development

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Division of Science, Technology & Innovation

Ben Verschueren is an innovative leader with expansive experience connecting technology to outcomes and effectively motivating and managing interdisciplinary teams. He is adept at managing portfolios of research and development programs across multiple industries, from program selection through conclusion. He is a trusted mentor and creative problem solver, able to work across organizational boundaries. Ben is passionate about enabling others, looking for ways to remove barriers and help empower innovators and his team.

Ben spent most of his career in varying roles with General Electric, from hands on research through managing strategic innovation portfolios at corporate and business unit levels. He established multiple innovation platforms and an incubator lab focused on funding a portfolio of projects building hands-on prototypes of exponential technologies applied to industrial ecosystems. He developed and nurtured multiple university and business partnerships and collaborations, from startups to large corporations. He also established GE Research's formal IR&D portfolio, enabling deeper government collaboration and funding opportunities. He established himself as a trusted resource always willing to help others figure out how to navigate and creatively work within internal and external systems to secure funding, resources, and support for advancing their ideas.

Most recently, Ben was Director of Global Labs at Fluence, where he grew a global team and network of test facilities and labs responsible for finalizing next generation, grid-scale energy storage systems. Ben quickly became known for his ability to work across the organization to create highly collaborative teams and advance product development towards scalable and reliable solutions.

Ben graduated with bachelors' degrees in computer science and electrical engineering from Brown University, and a master's degree in computer science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He holds a black belt in Six Sigma.

"HOW ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS CAN BUILD PARTNERSHIPS WITH REGIONAL VENTURE CAPITAL"

June 17, 2026, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Room #149A/151A, “Shared Training Room”



MODERATOR

JEANNE ERNST
Launch NY



KATHI DURDON
CNY Biotech Accelerator



JENNY TIMINERI
Excell Partners



ZACHARY K. PECENAK
New York Ventures



ESOSA IGHODARO
AcceleratorCON

“HOW ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS CAN MOVE POLICY“

June 17, 2026, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Room #203



MODERATOR

KELLY REARDON
University at Albany, Innovate 518



ANDREW KENNEDY
Ostroff Associates



HEATHER MULLIGAN
The Business Council of NYS



THOMAS J. O'CONNOR
Capital Region Chamber of Commerce

REGIONAL INNOVATION HOT SPOT & INCUBATORS MEETUP

June 17, 2026, 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Room #149A/151A, "Shared Training Room"

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Division of Science, Technology & Innovation

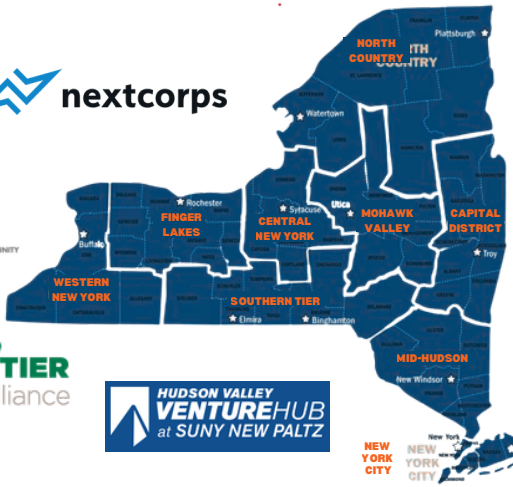
WIN WESTERN NEW YORK INCUBATOR NETWORK

SHIPLEY CENTER FOR INNOVATION

nextcorps

MVCC thINCubator

CEO CENTERSTATE CORPORATION FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



innovate 518 Tech Starts Here

ACCELERATE LONG ISLAND

SOUTHERN TIER Startup Alliance

HUDSON VALLEY VENTUREHUB at SUNY NEW PALTZ

NYC INNOVATION HOT SPOT



JOHN BLAHO
Program Director,
NYC Innovation Hot Spot &
Empire Corps



KELLY REARDON
Program Director,
Innovation and Entrepeurship,
University at Albany



BAILEY BURKE
Director,
Hudson Valley Venture Hub



JAMEY HOOSE
Executive Director,
Shipley Center for Innovation,
Technology Transfer, Clarkson
University

UPSTATE VENTURE CONNECT MEETUP

June 18, 2026, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Room #149A/151A, “Shared Training Room”

UVC UPSTATE VENTURE CONNECT



SPEAKER

ANNA W. TOPOL
CEO of QLITHIC

INSTITUTE TOURS

June 18, 2026, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM



THE RNA INSTITUTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

THE RNA INSTITUTE AT SUNY ALBANY



ny creates

ny creates Albany NanoTech Complex

SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

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InYour Ecosystem

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