

## Democrat and Chronicle

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**Section:** Speaking out

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### **Job creation in Monroe County is painting a brighter tomorrow**

*Maggie Brooks*

*File illustration*

REWORKING ROCHESTER: JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

MAGGIE BROOKS

GUEST ESSAYIST

CareGuide — 200 new jobs. Current Communications — 200 new jobs. CGI Communications — 250 new jobs. HF Technologies — 76 new jobs (from China). Impact Technologies — 50 new jobs. ACM Medical Laboratory — 48 new jobs. Flower City Printing — 30 new jobs. Pictometry — 20 new jobs. These are just a few examples of the economic vitality in our community and the small-to medium-size businesses that are key to our growth.

More jobs and a stronger economy: that is my goal as county executive. This year, we continued to strengthen and build on our cooperative success.

The Entrepreneurs Network and the WIRED initiative are two new programs that reflect our focus on regional collaboration and speak to the future of our changing economy. Most important, they will help create jobs.

The Entrepreneurs Network, or TEN, was started this year by Monroe County to support startup companies in our area. TEN is working with its inaugural class of 18 entrepreneurs representing various high-tech industries, including biotech, energy, software, Internet, telecom, photonics and medical device imaging.

TEN provides entrepreneurs with six months of hands-on education and training, as well as access to resources to build successful ventures.

TEN links entrepreneurs with local and national experts.

TEN hosts public panels to ensure all companies in our region can benefit from the program.

TEN represents an important step in our commitment to fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial environment in our region.

Another initiative that's all about creating jobs and building on our region's entrepreneurial spirit is WIRED, or Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development. This year, 21 organizations representing government, business and education formed the Finger Lakes Partnership and competed to be part of this national program. Based on our proven ability to work together, our partnership was chosen as one of only 13 to receive federal funds to develop a more regional, collaborative approach to work force and economic development.

WIRED will enable us to further strengthen regional collaboration, better leverage our resources and strengths, and transform our region into a premier center for entrepreneurial activity and investment.

Building a stronger regional economy is vital to our ability to compete in today's global environment.

The Entrepreneurs Network and WIRED will help position our region as a national leader in innovation, which ultimately means more jobs for our community.

Brooks is Monroe County executive.

For more information on job creation in Monroe County, call (585) 753-5627.

THURSDAY: Ivan Ramos, community member of the Editorial Board, joins the discussion of our economy.

Speaking Out: To reduce skyrocketing energy costs, RG&E wants to turn out the lights on regulation of electricity.

FRIDAY: Readers have their say.

SUNDAY: Editorial Page Editor James Lawrence on the Editorial Board's commitment to pushing for economic resurgence in the months ahead.

DemocratandChronicle.com

·A photo slideshow with audio taking you behind the scenes of the University of Rochester's research.

·Audio clips of UR students discussing the local economy and job market they'll soon face.

·The first three installments of our special report are available at DemocratandChronicle.com by clicking on Opinion.

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