Griffo presents New York State Senate Commendation Awards

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO   November 3, 2022

| ISSUE: **NEW YORK STATE SENATE COMMENDATIONS**

At a special ceremony today at Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute in Utica, New York State Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-I-C-Rome, presented New York State Commendation Awards to several members of the community.

The award is one way the Senate recognizes exceptional people who have made a lasting contribution to their community.

Those honored included:

- Rocco Arcuri, president and CEO of Adirondack Bank.

- Marcelline Bilton, retired educator and community advocate.

- Boyd Bissell, partner in Heidelberg Bread Company

- Pierre Bedard, partner in Heidelberg Bread Company

- Mark Bolos, musician and local business owner

- Shelly Callahan, executive director of The Center

- Laura Casamento, president of Utica University

- Alicia Dicks, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties

- Bruce Hairston, branch director at the Rome YMCA

- David Grow, local attorney

- Rick E. Lewis, arts advocate

- Yvonne McClusky, former executive director of the North Utica Senior Citizens Community Center

- Stephen Merran, media professional

- Rev. Maritza Perez, pastor of Maranatha Church in Rome

- John Pitarresi, retired Observer-Dispatch sportswriter and outdoors columnist

- Ben Simons, farmer and agriculture advocate

- Louis Tehan, president and CEO of Upstate Caring Partners

- Angela Vanderhoof, former executive director of the Oneida-Lewis ARC

- Kelly Walters, executive director of 50 Forward Mohawk Valley

Ray Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation representative and CEO of its enterprises, was unable to attend the ceremony.

Honorees received a personalized plaque and commendation coin as part of the ceremony.

"It is a great pleasure to recognize these individuals," **Sen. Griffo said.** "Each has shown remarkable commitment and dedication to improving their communities. Their exceptional work has truly made their communities and the region a better place for all."

###