



# Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation

## Newsrelease

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **High Quality of Public Schools Gains Poughkeepsie National Recognition**

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY – The Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, New York metropolitan statistical area has scored a “win.” It has been named by *Expansion Management* magazine as a **Best Mid-Sized Metro** in its ratings of metro areas *nationally* for the quality of their schools. Two Metro divisions were created by the publication: “Best Large Metros” and “Best Mid-Sized Metros.” Poughkeepsie ranked **Number 12** in the 15 highest-ranked Mid-Sized Metros.

In the cover story announcing the ratings printed in the December 2007 issue of *Expansion Management*, the publication noted that “the overall quality and characteristics of the public school systems are essential and key items to the location-candidate evaluation and selection process.”

When an expanding business or corporation is seeking a site for its future operations, its professional site-selection team spends a significant amount of time analyzing and comparing numerous cost factors and considering how each one would impact the business were it to move or expand to that location. Common cost factors include wage rates, real estate, taxes and fees, to name only a few. These factors are

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readily expressed in terms of dollars. However, a factor like public education does not translate readily into a monetary comparison. For example, per-pupil expenditure does not necessarily translate into better educational results. As difficult as a school-quality analysis is, business leaders and corporate site-location professionals understand that public-school quality is key to having the work force that they need. Plus, it plays a key role in quality of life and in a business or corporation's ability to successfully relocate its professional staff as well as retain valuable staff, once they are in place.

Says William R. Steinhaus, Dutchess County Executive, "A top-level workforce is essential to Dutchess County's economic future, and public education is the basis for any community's ability to produce a superior workforce. The Poughkeepsie area's high ranking highlights what we in Dutchess County already know—that we are fortunate to have schools capable of producing future workers possessing the qualifications that will make them to be sought after by top employers and successful on the job."

Anne N. Conroy, President and CEO of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, states: "In today's economy, where the competition for attracting the best employers is *international*, one of the leading factors that insures that a region will remain business-competitive is a work force prepared to meet the challenges created by the high-speed alternations in business strategies dictated by the global environment."

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The Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) is a private, nonprofit organization serving the cities, towns, and villages of Dutchess County. Funded annually by the County, the County's Industrial Development Agency, and through private-sector investment, the DCEDC supports and promotes business development in Dutchess County through a variety of business attraction, expansion, and entrepreneurial development programs.

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