START-UP NY board approves plans at four campuses

Posted on July 1, 2014 at 1:12 pm by Benjamin Oreskes in General, START-UP NY

The three-member board of the START-UP NY initiative on Tuesday unanimously approved the plans for tax-free designations at Clarkson University, Columbia University, Keuka College and the University of Rochester.

The initiative, introduced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and approved by the Legislature a year ago and in operation since the beginning of 2014, is distributing 3 million feet of space for private universities; 2.4 million feet must go to campuses upstate.

The University of Rochester submitted the largest proposal for two different locations totaling 106,000 square feet. The plan states that 73 prospective businesses had approached the university about taking space. Eastman Business Park accounts for around 63,000 square feet of the newly approved space. Formerly known as Kodak Park during the film manufacturer’s heyday, the business park once housed 15,000 workers in 154 manufacturing buildings.

The approved proposal aims to bring jobs to the area in fields such as optics engineering, biotechnology and semiconductor production.

One member of the board, Assembly appointee Edward Cupoli, spoke during the meeting about the hardships that had hit the area when Kodak filed for bankruptcy. Cupoli said he thought the project could be the way to bring the area back.

In March, the board approved a similar plan at UAlbany, which “includes marketing 20,000 square feet of building space and 54 acres of undeveloped property at its three campuses, including 18 acres along Fuller Road near the NanoCollege and 36 acres across the Hudson River at its East Campus.”

Last month, Cuomo announced the first slate of businesses that will benefit from the tax breaks offered by START-UP