Fredonia campus approved for Start-Up NY

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The State University of New York at Fredonia can now begin sponsoring businesses for the Start-Up NY tax breaks program.

Fredonia’s “campus plan” was formally approved Monday by Empire State Development Corp.

The plan was developed by a 13-member committee chaired by Kevin Kearns, Fredonia vice president for engagement and economic development, members of the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency and college stakeholders.

It focuses on attracting three business clusters: agribusiness; technology — particularly visual arts and new media, and business related to Lake Erie research; development and educational tourism.

Businesses approved into Start-Up NY, which is in its first year and provides substantial tax breaks for up to a decade, can locate in designated spaces provided by the plan. At Fredonia, that includes its Technology Incubator in downtown Dunkirk, the former Cliffstar corporate headquarters, also in downtown Dunkirk, about 4 acres of land on the west side of Fredonia’s main campus and a waterfront parcel on the Dunkirk harbor.

Kearns said the college has received about 24 inquiries thus far, and six proposals are being given serious consideration.

“There is a high level of interest across our targeted business clusters,” he said.

Several other local State University of New York colleges have already been approved for Start-Up NY, including the University at Buffalo, SUNY Buffalo State and Jamestown Community College. Meanwhile, private Canisius and D’Youville colleges recently gained acceptance as well.
Dan Miner is Business First's enterprise reporter. He also covers education and public companies.