

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
NEW YORK



UNITED STATES SENATOR

March 28, 2017

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings to everyone attending the Central New York Small Business Symposium. I am grateful for the Central New York Defense Alliance, AFCEA Erie Canal Chapter, Griffiss Institute, Mohawk Valley EDGE, Rome Representatives and NYSTEC for hosting today's event and for their outstanding commitment to supporting the growth and development of Central New York.

We are lucky to have the Air Force Research Lab at Rome, which plays a unique role in the region and our nation's defense. The Lab is an integral part of our economy and a key piece of the foundation of our high-tech industry along with the UAS Test Site at Griffiss International Airport. Symposiums like this highlight the importance of developing an infrastructure and regional expertise in technology and STEM education, both of which are essential in empowering a new generation of leaders, particularly women, to ensure that the United States maintains its role as a world leader in research, technology and development. Central New York's rich climate of technology research and development makes the region an ideal environment for small business owners and entrepreneurs to work and innovate. The health and well-being of this region's economy are critical to the health and security of New York State and of the nation. As such, it is my hope that entrepreneurs, small businesses and other organizations like those represented here today will continue to take advantage of Central New York's high-tech industry and the region's sustained economic growth.

I send my thanks to those hosting and attending this important event and my best wishes for many more years of continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator