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## **Marcy chip plant promoters check out Oregon facilities**

The quest to land a computer chip plant in Marcy has taken local economic development officials to the West Coast.

A delegation of education, workforce and planners went to Hillsboro, Oregon, for three days last week. This part of the state is home to several semiconductor manufacturing facilities, including chip-making giant Intel.

"For the Mohawk Valley to compete as a global destination in the semiconductor industry, it is vital for our local officials to have first-hand knowledge of the unique needs of this dynamic industry," said Mohawk Valley EDGE President Steven J. DiMeo. EDGE is spearheading the drive to attract a chip maker to the SUNY Institute of Technology campus.

Visiting Hillsboro were representatives of SUNYIT, the Workforce Investment Board, the state Department of Transportation, Marcy Town Planning Board, Mohawk Valley Water Authority and EDGE. The Hillsboro-Greater Portland area has more than 24,000 people employed in the semiconductor industry, earning an average salary of \$93,000 a year, reports EDGE.

"This opportunity to learn from Hillsboro's experience is vital in our own town master planning efforts," said Robert Lambe, planning board chair. "The ability to attract high-tech industry while retaining our valued rural character will allow our community to be a desirable place for us and our children."

EDGE set up the tour as the first in a series of trips to industry hubs for local leaders to become more familiar with the needs of and opportunities presented by the semiconductor industry. Additional trips are being scheduled to tour chip plants in East Fishkill and Massachusetts, as well as the facilities at the Albany NanoCollege.

DiMeo has said the siting of a semiconductor facility in Marcy would have a "transformational impact" on the upstate economy.

A 2007 study by Semico Research Corp. concluded that a chip plant could generate more than 5,500 new jobs.

"Not only do the semiconductor manufacturers themselves generate tremendous revenue, but associated spin-off companies and support structure spawn growth," said the report.