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Contact: Carol Wilber, Marketing Director

4303 Route 9, Hudson, NY 12534

Ph: 518 828.4718

Fax: 518 828.0901

[cwilber@columbiaedc.com](mailto:cwilber@columbiaedc.com)

[www.columbiaedc.com](http://www.columbiaedc.com)

## **Columbia County Ranks Third in Upstate Private Sector Job Growth**

**Hudson, NY** – Executive Director Kenneth J. Flood of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDDC) today announced that the New York State Department of Labor’s most recent *Upstate New York Labor Market Report* lists Columbia County as one of five Upstate counties outside the metro areas with the most rapid private sector job growth between January 2012 and January 2013 – with an increase of +3.3%.

“We are encouraged by the numbers and look forward to seeing a continued upward trend,” stated Ken Flood. “A rebound in the housing market would be good news for building and home improvement stores, carpet and flooring outlets, restaurants and other retailers. And with the continued interest in the City of Hudson, we expect 2013 to continue this job growth trend.”

The four additional Upstate counties making the private sector job growth list are Hamilton County (+10.0%), Chenango County (+4.5%), Schuyler County (+3.0%), and Delaware County (+2.8%).

According to the report, New York’s Upstate counties saw job gains in educational and health services (+1.7%), leisure and hospitality (+3.6%), and trade, transportation and utilities (0.5%). At the other end of the spectrum were services with job losses which included government (-1.0%), manufacturing (-1.2%), and natural resources, mining and construction (-2.8%).

“This report demonstrates Columbia County's effort to keep the cost of government down,” stated Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Patrick Grattan. “As a result the private sector is growing.”

Columbia Economic Development Corporation is the lead economic development organization for Columbia County, New York. Our mission is to strengthen the area’s tax base through economic development and job creation, to assist businesses locate and expand within the County, and to promote Columbia County as a premier spot for both business investment and quality of life.

The *Upstate New York Labor Market Report* presents labor market studies for the Upstate region of New York State. In this report, Upstate refers to the 52 counties in the state outside of New York City, Long Island, and Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties. For additional regional labor market information prepared by the New York State Department of Labor’s Division of Research and Statistics, visit:

[www.labor.ny.gov/stats/regmap.shtm](http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/regmap.shtm).

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