

110921

Date: April 11, 2025

To: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

Re: Authority to enter into a memorandum of agreement with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to facilitate the development of undergraduate and graduate engineering programs in and for the Westchester County market, for a term from February 25, 2025 through February 24, 2027.

Authority of your Honorable Board is requested for the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into a memorandum of agreement ("MOU") with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ("RPI") to facilitate the development of undergraduate and graduate engineering programs in and for the Westchester County market, for a term from February 25, 2025 through February 24, 2027. Each party will be responsible for its own expenses in establishing the partnership under the MOU.

The County and RPI have been in discussions regarding a strategic partnership to facilitate the development of engineering programs for the Westchester County market. These programs would be both undergraduate and graduate level with a particular focus on multidisciplinary engineering, science, business, and continuing and professional development programs that support the skills needed for several emerging and priority industry sectors that have been identified as part of the County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Recovery and Implementation Plan.

RPI will be responsible for program development, operations and management of all existing and potential future academic facilities that may be constructed in the County, and operating expenses of all academic and research programs under its sponsorship, including the conception and development of certificate- and degree granting programs. It is the County's preference that proposed academic programs include undergraduate and graduate programs in one or more engineering, applied science, and STEM fields, particularly those fields that align with the key industry needs of Westchester County's emerging and priority sectors: life sciences, advanced manufacturing, tech, and clean energy. Applicable academic programs include those in biological and environmental engineering, computer engineering, civil and mechanical engineering, life sciences, computer science, data science, quantum computing, operations research, and interdisciplinary programs.

The County will work with RPI leadership to facilitate discussions related to programmatic initiatives, co-operative education programs, or other strategic partnerships with business leaders, organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in the County. The parties will also collaborate to raise awareness of RPI programs in the County, support recruitment and enrollment efforts, and coordinate with existing organizations and institutions in the County as needed.

The MOU is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(ix) thereof.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are to establish a partnership between Westchester County and RPI that will create comprehensive skills training and placement programs, allowing employers to attract and retain more employees from Westchester County, especially from historically underserved populations and will serve as a catalyst for significant economic growth.

Accordingly, your favorable action on the annexed Resolution is most respectfully urged and recommended.

KWJ/BG/DLV/dv

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 05/01/2025 - RAYMOND SCULLY, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the County Executive, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (“County”) is hereby authorized to enter into a memorandum of agreement (“MOU”) with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (“RPI”) to facilitate the development of undergraduate and graduate engineering programs in and for the Westchester County market, for a term from February 25, 2025 through February 24, 2027; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each party will be responsible for its own expenses in establishing the partnership under the MOU; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly appointed designee be, and hereby is, authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effect the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/credited	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	N/A					

Budget Funding Year(s) 2025-2027 Start Date 02/25/2025 End Date 02/24/2027
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____
State Aid _____
\$ _____ Federal Aid _____
(must match resolution) Other _____