

Get to know the keynote speaker:



Raymond J. Durso Jr.

Raymond J. Durso Jr. is the executive director of The Genesis Group of the Mohawk Valley region.

Durso has been involved with The Genesis Group since its inception in 2000, first as a board member then as executive director. He was born in Herkimer, raised in Utica and gets to travel and experience the entire Mohawk Valley region through his work.

Durso is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Genesis organization. He works with community leaders and professionals in education, healthcare, tourism, economic development and other quality of life projects.

Through his work, he has met and worked with many people including elected leaders at the federal, state, county and local levels such as Vice President Dick Cheney, Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer and Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Durso has also served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce and The Utica Zoo, and currently serves as president of the Chamber Alliance of the Mohawk Valley. He has served as an on-air consultant for WKTV, a columnist for the Observer-Dispatch and an on-air radio host for WIBX.

He credits his parents, his wife Diana and their children Gennaro, Gianna and Alexa.

Inspirational quote:

"In order to have a friend, you need to be a friend."

What is the Men's Career Experience?

Male students in grades 10-12 in the 10 Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES component school districts are encouraged to attend the Men's Career Experience to start thinking about their career opportunities, employability and independence.

The event, organized by the School to Careers program, takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5, at Herkimer BOCES.

The keynote speaker is Raymond J. Durso Jr., the executive director of the Mohawk Valley region. There then will be breakout sessions and a panel discussion with Durso, Crazy Otto's Empire Diner owner Scott Tranter, NewsChannel2 Vice President and General Manager Steve McMurray and AFL-CIO Central New York Labor Council President Pat Costello.

To register your students or for more information, contact School to Careers secretary Kim LiBritz by emailing klibriz@herkimer-boces.org or by calling 315-867-2080.

Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES

315-867-2000

352 Gros Blvd. in Herkimer

Men's Career Experience at Herkimer BOCES

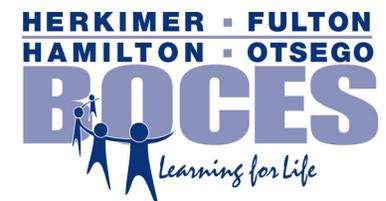


Men's Career Experience

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
at Herkimer BOCES

Featuring keynote speaker, breakout sessions and panel discussion

Continental breakfast provided



352 Gros Blvd. in Herkimer

Get to know the other breakout session speakers:



Scott Tranter

Scott Tranter is the owner of Crazy Otto's Empire Diner in Herkimer.

His educational background includes attending Quincy Vocational Technical School in Massachusetts,

Bakersfield Community College, Glendale Community College and Antelope Valley College, as well as receiving a ServSafe certification from Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Scott's experience includes six months in the U.S. Army, four years owning the TNT Attorney and Photocopy Service in California and 18 years owning Crazy Otto's Diner in California. He has owned Crazy Otto's Empire Diner in Herkimer since 2007 and Diner Wizard since 2009. He has authored eight books including six cookbooks, is the former host of cooking show CNY Flavor and CNY Kids Talk and guest chef on the weekly online show called Elevate Upstate.

His other affiliations include member of the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Board of Education, International Association of Culinary Professionals, former ServSafe instructor/proctor for the National Restaurant Association and former member of the Rotary International Board of Directors, Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors and Pinehill Institute of Successful Living Board of Directors.

Inspirational quote:

"Let faith be your steering wheel and not your spare tire."



Steve McMurray

Steve McMurray is the vice president and general manager at NewsChannel 2. He has held the position since March 2014. Prior to taking over as GM, he was the news director at the station for almost 10 years. He also anchored the Live at Five Newshour and NewsChannel 2 at 6 p.m. with Kristen Copeland.

Prior to coming to WKTV, Steve worked at WUTR NewsChannel 20 in Utica for more than seven years, serving as the news director and 5 p.m. anchor for two-and-a-half of those years. He also held the sports director position for four years before making the jump to news full-time.

Steve is a Frankfort native and graduated from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University with a bachelor's degree in political science and broadcast journalism. In addition to bleeding SU Orange, Steve is also maroon and white to the core as a graduate of Frankfort-Schuyler High School.

As a lifelong Central New Yorker, Steve enjoys serving the community. He has been a member of the Frankfort Fire Department for 24 years, serving as assistant chief for 13 of those years, and currently serves as company president. He is also a past president of the Frankfort Kiwanis Club, where he now holds the post of club secretary. He is a former committee member of the Herkimer County Hunger Coalition and at one time was a board member for the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame.

Steve still lives in Frankfort, not far from where he grew up, with his wife Carrie, his son Jack and his daughter Audrey.

Inspirational quote:

"I'm fortunate to be able to work and live where I grew up, and I'd love nothing more than to help the next generation of local natives be able to start their careers here as well."



Pat Costello

Pat Costello has been a member of the IBEW since 1976.

He completed his apprenticeship in 1980. He then went on to work as a journeyman wireman, foreman and general foreman on many

projects in and around Central New York.

Pat has held the following elected positions for his union: executive board member, vice president, president, assistant business manager and business manager.

He is currently president of the AFL-CIO Central New York Labor Council.

He also sits on the following committees: Central & Northern NY Building Trades Council, Workforce Investment Board, Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Advisory Committee, Central New York Labor Studies Advisory Committee, Oneida County School and Business Alliance, Youth Construction Initiative Program at the Utica schools and many others.

In 1988, Pat received his certificate in Labor studies from Cornell University.

Inspirational quote:

"We in the middle class that have enjoyed our personal version of the American dream must through our mentorship, partnership, involvement and leadership, help those behind us by providing them a ladder and a path to what we have enjoyed."