



# News Release

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## WATS Connects Students to the FLCC Wayne County Campus

NEWARK, NY – - The Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority (RGRTA) and Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) announced today the addition of Wayne Area Transportation Service (WATS) bus service from Lyons and Newark to the FLCC Wayne County Campus Center on Technology Parkway off of Route 88 in Newark.

“We are pleased to announce the expansion of daily service to the FLCC Wayne County Campus Center,” said Mark Aesch, Chief Executive Officer of RGRTA. Students are experiencing a higher cost of living in addition to paying for college. WATS is proud to announce this partnership with FLCC which will further extend savings to college students and their families.”

The route improves service for customers in Lyons and Newark and gives FLCC students in those communities safe transportation to the campus center. Previously, the nearest stop was a mile away and students had to walk along busy Route 88 to get to classes.

“FLCC is very appreciative to WATS and our local officials for recognizing the need for and making safe and reliable transportation available to our students who attend the Wayne County Campus Center,” said Barbara Risser, president of Finger Lakes Community College. “It is this type of collaboration that strengthens our community and builds an educated workforce.”

Joining RGRTA Chief Executive Officer Mark Aesch and FLCC President Barbara Risser for the announcement were Wayne County Clerk and RGRTA Commissioner Michael Jankowski, James Hoffman Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors and Newark Mayor Peter Blandino.

“This expansion of WATS service is an important enhancement to the FLCC facility in Newark. Working together RGRTA, the county, village and FLCC have been able to make this happen,” said Wayne County Commissioner Mike Jankowski.

The opportunity to expand the service was first brought to the attention of the Authority by Wayne County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Jim Hoffman and Wayne County Administrator James Marquette.

“RGRTA is once again responding to the needs of Wayne County residents,” said Chairman Jim Hoffman. “Increased use of the FLCC campus is in the best interest of our county. This additional service is a plus for FLCC and the county.”

WATS and the FLCC Newark Campus Center worked together to administered a transportation demand survey to students before adjusting the service. “The results of the survey also told us that there was enough demand for service to the campus center,” said Aesch. “We were able to adjust the service to better service the residents of Lyons and Newark at no cost to county taxpayers.”

“This is a very positive step in the right direction, to have the involvement of WATS, with FLCC Newark Campus. This will definitely be an asset for FLCC Newark Campus and their students,” remarked Newark Mayor Peter Blandino.

RGRTA has seen the highest ridership in nearly 20 years with 17 million customers on board. RGRTA credits this ridership increase to higher quality customer service. Ridership is 2.5 times the national average.

“WATS is committed to putting buses where people want to go when they want to go there,” said CEO Aesch. “Affordable, reliable public transportation enables students living in Lyons and Newark to set their sites on getting their degree while lessening the impact on their budgets.”

When public transit systems across the country are cutting service and raising fares, RGRTA continues to expand service in response to the increase in demand and is committed to keeping the fare stable for the next three years.

#### About WATS:

Wayne Area Transportation Service began offering fixed route service in 1980 with a fleet of 3 vans. Today, WATS provides service to more than 150,000 customers annually on five fixed routes in 15 towns and nine villages. WATS also links Wayne County residents with downtown Rochester and employment centers in Monroe County via the Route 104 and Route 31 corridors. For more information on WATS fixed route service visit the website at [www.rgrta.com](http://www.rgrta.com).

#### About FLCC:

Finger Lakes Community College ([www.flcc.edu](http://www.flcc.edu)) is a State University of New York two-year higher education institution. FLCC’s 250-acre park-like campus is located in the heart of the Finger Lakes in Canandaigua, N.Y. The College offers more than 45 degree and certificate programs, including environmental conservation, ornamental horticulture, music recording technology, nursing, communications, graphic design and tourism management. FLCC’s current enrollment is more than 5,900 full- and part-time students.