



## MENTOR INFORMATION FOR ROCKLAND P.L.U.S. SUSTAINABLE PLANNING

Dear Rockland PLUS Mentor:

Thank you for joining us to be a mentor for the 2012 Rockland Planning Land Use with Students (PLUS) Project. The planning team, teachers and students value your input and the time you spend with them during this event. We have 6 different **local projects** that the students have selected to present to teams of mentors in the early part of the morning, followed by the students being mixed into new groups to work on the **Rockland Psych Center property**. This will be an opportunity for them to apply their knowledge to a new challenge. Below is a highlight of the plan for the day.

The event will be held at **SUNY Rockland Community College** on **Friday 12/14/12** with our opening remarks starting at 8:30 AM in the Technology Center outside the Ellipse Room and mentor introductions at 8:50 AM. We will have a check-in table set up in the foyer for you.

Building information:

<http://www.sunyrockland.edu/about/virtual-tour/technology-center>

- **8:30 AM:** MENTOR CHECK IN Ellipse Lobby
- **8:50 AM:** MENTOR INTRODUCTIONS using an interactive activity with the students.
- **9:20 - 9:50 AM:** STUDENT PRESENTATIONS TO MENTOR - **FEEDBACK**  
Each table of ~10 students will be from one school presenting their project to several mentors. Mentors will work with the students to help them think more completely about their proposed project. We have stressed with the students that their plan be **sustainable** considering **economic, environmental and social** benefits and impacts. Encourage the students to carefully consider the impacts of their choices, and to think more deeply to build a strong integrated plan. **For example:** Just the simple mention of planning to meet LEED certification is not enough, probe them on what specific features, how they will place them; if they want to include local businesses encourage them to think of how they can make this work, what are the obstacles that might need to be overcome; and encourage them to express how their partnerships with community groups will work.

You are their real world connection to land use and planning. Our classroom time is limited so we have not focused on a financial analysis of how their projects would operate and hope that you can bring your 'real world' expertise to introduce this to them. Our visits were spent visioning as we encouraged students to think of community needs, partnerships and possibilities with some weighing of how those would practically be implemented. We know, however, that the students did not have all the tools nor the time to research information on a financial analysis of taxes or ratables etc.

Students will be collecting feedback on both the items the mentors found as **strengths** with their projects, as well as suggestions on **improvements**. We encourage the mentors to have a "light touch" as they suggest and offer feedback, allowing the students to be the drivers of the product, however your insights, thoughts and observations are extremely valuable. We often find posing questions assists the students in considering their plan more deeply, allowing them to come up with ways to improve their plans.

**10:00 - 10:10:** ALL return to the Tech Building foyer for coffee and snack

**10:20 - 10:45:** ALL – Ellipse Room for an introduction to the Rockland Psych Center property and collaborative mapping orientation and regrouping for new planning event.

**10:55 - 12:00:** COLLABORATIVE MAPPING –Schools will be mixed to work together on this newly introduced project. Mentors will be available to answer questions from any of the tables during the initial planning, but from 11:30-12:00 they will be assigned two groups to rotate between as they offer insights and feedback.

**12:10 - 12:40:** LUNCH - Mentors are invited and encouraged to stay and have lunch

**12:50 - 1:20:** STUDENT PRESENTATIONS back in Ellipse. Students will provide highlights from their Rockland Psych planning projects. We invite all mentors to stay for this last half hour with the students - 12:50-1:20 PM. We are asking those mentors who are familiar with the project space to provide quick feedback on at least one aspect of the students' project.

Many, many thanks for your help in this event. We have designed the program to engage the students in their own local community, as well as to connect them to the wider community of Rockland. We would love to have your feedback and suggestions on the event and will be following up after the day with a very short evaluation form we hope you will complete.

THANK YOU!

The Rockland PLUS Planning Team