

Biographical Statement

Kevin O'Connor

Kevin O'Connor is currently President and CEO of the Albany Consulting Group which he started in 2014 and specialized in providing consultative and advisory services to private companies, municipalities and school districts on all aspects of broadband networks.

In 2013 Mr. O'Connor retired as President, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of FirstLight Fiber (formerly Tech Valley Communications), the first and only fiber optic telecommunications company based in Albany, New York. Mr. O'Connor, a Founder of the Company, successfully grew the company from the start-up phase to one of the largest fiber-based telecommunications providers in upstate New York and Northern New England with over 200,000 fibers miles spanning five states and Canada. Under Mr. O'Connor's leadership the Company grew rapidly through organic growth as well as through a series of acquisitions and has been recognized by Inc. Magazine and the Harvard Business School in the past as one of the fastest growing "Inner City 100 Companies." FirstLight Fiber provides mission critical voice and data services to business enterprise customers and national wireless carriers throughout its fiber footprint. Mr. O'Connor joined the Company as CEO on July 3, 2000 and has been a member of the Board of Directors since the company's inception in 1998. In 2010 the Company was sold to the Boston-based Private Equity firm, Riverside Partners at which time Mr. O'Connor was appointed as President as well as CEO in which capacity he served until his retirement in October of 2013.

Prior to Tech Valley Communications, Mr. O'Connor served for eight years as President of the Center for Economic Growth (CEG) a business sponsored economic development and consulting organization that initiated the effort to attract the semiconductor industry to the region, which later resulted in the siting of the multibillion-dollar Global Foundries semiconductor chip manufacturing facility in the region. CEG also provided financial management and technical assistance to manufacturing and technology firms. During Mr. O'Connor's tenure, CEG led the effort to modernize the Albany Municipal Airport into the Albany International Airport and led the call for the redevelopment of the Amtrak Train Station. He was responsible to the Center's Board of Directors for all aspects of the day to day operations of the Center.

Prior to his appointment as President of CEG, Mr. O'Connor had been working in the economic development field within New York State Government for 6 years. In his last job with State Government Mr. O'Connor was a Deputy Commissioner for the New York State Department of Economic Development (now ESDC). Mr. O'Connor has also held various positions in the Governor's Office (during the Hugh Carey and Mario Cuomo administrations), the New York State Division of the Budget and the New York State Department of Health.

Mr. O'Connor has extensive experience in board governance and sits on or has sat on a number of private companies, nonprofit and governmental boards of directors including Albany Molecular Research Inc. (NASDAQ: AMRI), The College of St Rose, The Albany Parking Authority, Palace Performing Arts Center and is the founder and chairman of the Albany Police & Fire Foundation. Mr. O'Connor has participated in the New York Stock Exchange's Annual Board Room Summit on Corporate Governance for the each of the past 9 years.

Mr. O'Connor is a graduate of the State University of New York College at Brockport where he earned a Bachelor's degree in History and Master's Degree in Public Administration.