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July xx, 2018

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**Entrepreneurs from Grand Central Tech Arrive at Senate Garage in Kingston for Innovative Summer Business Residency**

***County Executive Hein and Hudson Valley Tech Meetup Aim to Forge Enduring Relationships to Encourage Tech-Related Innovation in Ulster County***

**Kingston, N.Y.** – On July 11, Ulster County Executive Mike Hein attended the regular monthly Hudson Valley Tech Meetup to kick off the opening of Grand Central Tech’s (GCT) summer satellite offices at the Senate Garage in Kingston. GCT is one of the nation’s premier tech incubators and their decision to establish a satellite office in the Hudson Valley—GCT North—will strengthen developing relationships between entrepreneurs now based in New York City and tech innovators already living and working here in one of the Catskills’ most dynamic tech sectors. The innovative partnership between Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. (UCEDA), Grand Central Tech (GCT) and Hudson Valley Tech Meetup (HVTM) to create a summer tech incubator in Kingston was conceived to build stronger connections between Ulster County and NYC tech innovators. Throughout July and August, GCT North will host employees drawn from more than 100 of GCT’s member companies in New York City.

Creating ample opportunities to build relationships between these NYC-based entrepreneurs and local tech and maker communities is an important focus of planned summer activities. In addition to inviting GCT North residents to attend the HVTM’s monthly gatherings for Ulster County’s close-knit tech and startup community, a weekly series of “Meet Your Neighbors” mini-meetups will be held on Wednesday evenings in Kingston. To view the full schedule and register for the “Meet Your Neighbors” gatherings, please visit << <https://www.meetup.com/hvtech/events/> >>.

**Michael P. Hein, Ulster County Executive**

“The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance and representatives from Hudson Valley Tech Meetup have been participating in membership events at GCT’s NYC location to help inform others who might like to participate in our new GCT North program,” explained **County Executive Mike Hein**. “This residency is the exciting culmination of many months of hard work and planning. We are very pleased to welcome GCT North to Kingston and anticipate a fruitful summer of making connections and establishing a base for ongoing business to flourish. Our aim is to encourage business relationships between New York City entrepreneurs and the innovative thinkers who are already living and working in the Hudson River Valley tech corridor. It is our hope that many of the folks who are working at the Senate Garage this summer will return to take up permanent residence here.”

The initiative is a centerpiece of County Executive Hein’s most recent business attraction efforts, which leverage the County’s tremendous scenic and cultural resources to compete with surrounding areas and small cities throughout the nation to attract highly talented, creative professionals to Ulster County’s communities. Ongoing activities and events have been designed to showcase Ulster County’s compelling range of assets—from natural and recreational resources to economic assistance, a thriving community of potential employees, and continuing opportunities to network and make essential connections with like-minded entrepreneurs and established businesses.

***About Grand Central Tech***

Founded in 2014, Grand Central Tech (GCT) has quickly earned renown as New York City’s premier venture platform, providing all the critical resources for transformational startups to achieve scale. Within its Accelerator program, the company awards seed-stage, non-equity investments through a highly- competitive annual application process. For businesses seeking shared space, GCT also operates a co-working facility called Growth in its 100,000 square foot office, just steps from Grand Central Station. The Hub@GCT supports social entrepreneurs that are using technology to address some of the most pressing urban challenges facing cities large and small – energy, waste, transportation, agriculture and water. GCT also recently added the New York Venture Fellows program to its platform, which is a year-long fellowship program designed to help high-potential entrepreneurs scale their ventures in New York City.The summer-long residency at the Senate Garage, GCT North, is their latest energetic, forward-leaning initiative—and their first presence outside of New York City.

**Rodney Manzo, CEO and Founder, Anvyl**

Anvyl, a supply chain technology platform that provides visibility into the manufacturing process and streamlines relationships between reputable brands and world-class manufacturers, is one of the GCT North teams that will be onsite. They standardize and automate interactions, negotiate contracts and schedules, track production and quality, and provide visual and data updates to ensure on-time delivery. *"Anvyl has doubled in size since January,” said* ***Anvyl CEO and Founder, Rodney Manzo****. “With our growing number of employees and customers, we’ve gone from weekly company round-tables to team-based planning: we’re all striving to bring transparency and ease to the supply chain community. With the opening of GCT North, we jumped at the opportunity to bond across our growing team and get out of the humid hustle of summer in NYC. This is a dedicated time to review and apply focus so we can close out our first full calendar year as a company with vigor. Upstate, we’ll be deepening every single employee's understanding of Anvyl. From supply chain knowledge courses to identifying our unique core values, this time at GCT North will provide a no-distraction, nature-filled environment to build on our foundation and hone our rallying call so we’re ready for scale."*

***Inspiring a New Generation of Ulster County Residents***

Ulster County is poised to lead a new wave of economic development in the region: The foundation has been laid by new tech firms like Dragon360, Moonfarmer, Exago and 340Best, among others. Many local high school and college-age students are seeking opportunities that will allow them to remain in their communities following graduation while establishing connections with the existing tech communities in New York City and beyond. An important aspect of the GCT North initiative is a keen awareness of this initiative’s potential to mentor young people and to attract talented young employees to technology-related enterprises.

**Ashley Knox, Executive Director, Go Beyond Greatness**

In June, a group of 20 high school students from Kingston and New Paltz took a tour of the GCT facilities in New York City as part of the Go Beyond Greatness, Inc. (GBG) “Build Your Brand Project.” The Kingston-based program is housed in the Seven 21 Media Center and **GBG Founder/Director Ashley Knox** said, “Students learned about the number of new tech jobs on the rise, along with how technology is used as a great tool to improve social and environmental issues within our communities. Students were amazed to see the number of young professionals doing meaningful work with the Hub@GCT. Members of the company hosted a lunch-and-learn session to talk to students about life in Kingston and how to utilize social media as a platform to build their personal brand in a way to increase college- and career-oriented opportunities locally and abroad for their future success. The students had a blast and we are really excited about the GCT North project in Kingston this summer.”

***Ulster County Offers Exceptional Quality of Life and a Thriving Entrepreneurial Culture***

**Kale Kaposhilin, Co-founder of Hudson Valley Tech Meetup**

“We want to create the conditions where people will feel excited, inspired, and eager to meet each other. I think that one uniquely Hudson Valley approach to business development concerns is commitment to focus on community wealth building and to preserve our diversity. The speakers we’re inviting to these sessions share a sense of pride about actively creating a rising tide together,” said **Kale Kaposhilin, co-founder of Hudson Valley Tech Meetup**. “Everyone that I’ve met at Grand Central Tech shares the love that we have here in Kingston and Ulster County for the co-creation of a compassionate community. I hope that our neighbors and colleagues living here already will come out to meet our visiting friends at our events so that we can all get to know each other,” Kaposhilin continued. “If we do this it is my expectation that we will form new relationships and find new paths to partnerships and resiliency which will benefit everyone. Community is something that we create, together.”

During the summer, GCT’s visiting members will be encouraged to participate in a wide range of local activities, including tech-themed workshops and panels as well as local festivals and events. The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, which is sponsoring GCT’s summer presence in Kingston, will partner with GCT, the Senate Garage, and Hudson Valley Tech Meetup to coordinate participation in these events and activities, with a goal of showcasing Ulster County’s quality of life and building stronger ties between tech leaders in Ulster County and in New York City. Through these efforts, GCT North supports the County Executive’s efforts to build and strengthen Ulster County’s local tech-related cluster.

“We want these teams from Grand Central Tech to directly experience the tangible benefits of what it is like to live, work and enjoy themselves in Ulster County, and to see first-hand how easy it could be to relocate their businesses and families here,” explained **County Executive Mike Hein**. “We want them to see that they could join the fold of businesses who already call Ulster County home—and that they could thrive here because of the priority and support that we offer to our existing business community and our growing tech industries. The welcome mat is out.”

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Videos: [Tech In Ulster County – Kale Kaposhilin and Hudson Valley Tech Meetup](https://youtu.be/a_I6Vudwdfg) (<https://youtu.be/a_I6Vudwdfg>); [Tech in Ulster County – Dennis Crowley and Kingston Stockade FC](https://youtu.be/yIjDXUqdHAs) (<https://youtu.be/yIjDXUqdHAs>); Ulster County Welcomes Niche Manufacturers! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qepplQ5UOaE>)

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/ulsterforbusiness/video>

Photos: Attached. Ashley Knox sent several too.