

**Kline/Hanna Field Hearing
Testimony from Utica College
Provost Judith Kirkpatrick
March 22, 2011**

Chairman Kline and Congressman Hanna, it is my great honor to provide testimony on behalf of the trustees, faculty, administration, staff, and students of Utica College.

Utica College was founded by Syracuse University in 1946 to help meet the needs of returning veterans. From its humble beginnings in makeshift buildings on Oneida Square, Utica College has grown to be a robust, independent educational institution with a mission that focuses on career preparation. Our commitment to combining liberal and professional studies ensures that students have the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in a rapidly changing work environment.

One way we accomplish this is by requiring internships and other field experiences in most of our professional majors, including education, physical therapy, criminal justice, nursing, occupational therapy, journalism, public relations, and construction management. These opportunities are developed through faculty or Career Center relationships with appropriate sites. In addition to hosting a Career Fair for all students, our Career Center actively works with local companies and organizations to help them create an internship program if they do not yet have one and has developed a unique extended job shadow program for our students to introduce them to all aspects of a particular profession. Hands-on experience benefits students in a number of ways: on-the-job training; a chance to apply theories learned in the classroom to the real world; opportunities to be mentored by experienced professionals; and, perhaps most importantly, the chance to network with prospective employers. Hundreds of UC graduates started with their current employers through internships, co-ops, practica, and other applied coursework.

The College also benefits from industry-supported advisory groups that ensure that our signature programs remain not only relevant, but also innovative and forward-looking.

Advisory group members keep faculty up to date on industry trends and help them develop a curriculum that better prepares students for the profession. Members often collaborate directly or indirectly with faculty in research. Students benefit from the relationship with our Advisory Boards through mentoring and networking opportunities, as well as internships and, at times, scholarship support.

It is difficult to capture in five minutes all that Utica College offers in job creation and economic growth, but I would be remiss if I did not highlight one of UC's fastest-growing signature programs, cybersecurity.

Concerns about the security of computer networks are escalating in both the public and private sectors. Our nation's critical infrastructures (including financial, oil and gas, water treatment, nuclear reactors, and air traffic control) are at risk and need to be secured. Each of these systems is run by computers and software in complex networks that need to be both reliable and secure. A successful attack on any of these systems by an adversary could have devastating effects on the U.S., its economy, and way of life.

The U.S. Government has appointed a White House Cybersecurity Coordinator specifically to address issues of electronic terrorism and espionage. Corporations and other private sector agencies and organizations are adding departments and employees to help anticipate and fight cyber crime, which can cost them millions of dollars per day.

The field is seeing heightened demand for information technology specialists and computer and information research scientists who can create methods of monitoring and defending networks and devices and integrate those applications into older systems.

Each time we hear about breaches in national defense, municipal infrastructures, or financial systems, it becomes clearer how critical it is to provide training in detecting and preventing cybercrime. Our programs in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance, Cybersecurity-Intelligence and Forensics, Economic Crime Management, Fraud Management, and the certificate in Financial Crimes Investigations provide

undergraduates, graduates, and in-the-field professionals with a unique and state-of-the-art education in one of our nation's most rapidly growing and critical technologies.

Utica College graduates are in high demand in law enforcement, government agencies, banking, finance, and homeland security. Local companies that have hired UC graduates or interns include:

ITT

AIS

NYSTEC

KPMG

Northrop Grumman

Bank of New York Mellon

Rollins, Inc.

Booz Allen

and

The Air Force Research Lab

Our commitment to Cybersecurity serves to underscore Utica College's ongoing relationship with the entire business community. We work closely with leaders in health care, education, law enforcement, government, journalism, public relations, not-for-profits, and other sectors that employ thousands of Utica College alumni. Our conversations focus on ensuring that UC's academic programs address worker shortages and anticipate emerging employment trends. Our common goal is to educate well-prepared individuals who can compete and contribute anywhere in the world, but especially those who will want to remain in the Mohawk Valley when they graduate.

Thank you.