



**Media Contact**  
Edward Bartholomew  
EDC President  
518.761.6007  
[ebartholomew@edcwc.org](mailto:ebartholomew@edcwc.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***EDC Warren County to Celebrate Region's Forest Products  
Industry at May 16 Annual Luncheon***

(April 11, 2014; Glens Falls, NY) – EDC Warren County will salute the tremendous economic impact of the region's forest products industry at its annual luncheon on Friday, May 16, at Six Flags Great Escape Lodge in Queensbury.

The featured speaker for the event will be Deba Mukherjee, Ph.D., president and CEO of Finch Paper LLC in Glens Falls.

This edition of the annual luncheon will be the first in a series highlighting the industry sectors that drive the region's economy. EDC Warren County President Edward Bartholomew said starting with the forest products industry was the obvious choice.

"Where would we be without wood?" Bartholomew said. "From foresters, timber harvesters and sawmills to virtually every type of paper product manufacturer and the equipment manufacturers, fabrication shops and industrial contractors who help keep the facilities running, no industry has made a more widespread or enduring economic contribution to our region than the forest products industry."

Finch Paper is a cornerstone of that wood-based regional economy, with more than 600 employees manufacturing 250,000 tons per year of uncoated papers for the digital and traditional printing markets. Its economic impact on the region is estimated to be \$373 million per year. The business was founded on its current location in 1865 as a sawmill, lumberyard and quarry business. As the demand for building materials moved westward after the Civil War, the company shifted its attention to papermaking. Today, Finch Paper is sold nationwide for corporate marketing materials, direct mail, book publishing, and business office use. The company is widely recognized for the quality of its papers, its industry-leading customer service, and its commitment to sustainable forestry. The company's forestry division, Finch Forest Management, employs a team of five professional foresters who help landowners large and small achieve sustainable forestry goals including improved forest health, enhanced recreational opportunities, third-party certification and reduced ownership costs.

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Dr. Mukherjee joined Finch Paper in May 2013 after 15 years with worldwide paper manufacturer P.H. Glatfelter in York, Penn., where he most recently served as vice president and general manager of specialty papers. He is a globally recognized leader in new product development and innovation in the manufacturing environment. Joining Finch marked a regional homecoming of sorts for Mukherjee, who earned both a Doctorate and Master of Science in Chemical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy.

### **Annual Luncheon Details**

In addition to the presentation from Dr. Mukherjee, together with other representatives from the related forest products businesses, EDC officials will share highlights from 2013 and discuss 2014 initiatives. This public event is expected to sell out, attracting private citizens as well as roughly 250 local business and non-profit executives, county and municipal administrators, school leaders, and elected officials.

The luncheon will be held in the ballroom of the Great Escape Lodge, 89 Six Flags Drive in Queensbury. Registration opens at 12:00 p.m., with networking and sponsor displays available for viewing from noon until 1:00 p.m. The luncheon and program begin at 1:00 p.m. and last until 2:15 p.m.

Tickets are available online at [www.edcwc.org](http://www.edcwc.org) and by calling the EDC office at 761-6007 ext 300. Ticket prices for EDC Investors and event sponsors are \$55 each or \$500 for 10 tickets; for the general public, tickets are \$75 each or \$650 for 10 tickets.

Information about becoming an event sponsor is available online at [edcwc.org](http://edcwc.org) or by contacting Elaine Behlmer at 761-6007 ext. 300.

### **About EDC**

EDC delivers solutions to existing and new businesses considering investment in Warren County. EDC offers one-stop guidance for businesses seeking introduction to the county, its municipalities and its resources, as well as assistance on finance, funding, real estate, workforce and development-related issues.

More information is available at [www.edcwc.org](http://www.edcwc.org).

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