

# Watertown Daily Times

## Symposium at St. Lawrence University will focus on entrepreneurs

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Markley

CANTON — Developing ways to improve the region’s economy by encouraging and supporting entrepreneurs is the focus of this year’s North Country Symposium.

Now in its 14th year, the free, daylong event draws a wide mix of people each year to St. Lawrence University for presentations and brainstorming sessions related to a specific theme.

This year’s symposium runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 25 at SLU’s Eben Holden Conference Center. Registration is required and begins at 8:30 a.m.

Deborah Markley, co-founder and managing director of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, Lincoln, Neb., will lead the symposium which is themed: “The Many Faces of Entrepreneurship: Creating a Supportive Environment.”

“In our experience, building a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem, one that nurtures all types of entrepreneurial talent is the most promising development strategy for rural regions like the North Country,” Ms. Markley said in an email.

During the symposium, a panel of regional entrepreneurs will share their insights and experts in entrepreneurship development will provide brief overviews of initiatives already underway in the region.

“I hope to share some of the lessons learned in other parts of the country, one of the most important being the important role that communities and community leaders play in supporting entrepreneurs,” Ms. Markley said.

Following the presentations, participants will be divided into working groups to take part in collaborative brainstorming sessions that will focus on five major areas:

- \*Consider a framework for an entrepreneurial ecosystem that supports the many faces of entrepreneurship
- \*Understand the region’s development opportunities
- \*Identify key stakeholders, entrepreneurial talent and resources
- \*Make connections between communities, entrepreneurs and what is already working in the region
- \*Establish concrete actions that should be taken to create the supportive environment

To view a map of campus, visit: [www.stlawu.edu/campus-map](http://www.stlawu.edu/campus-map).

The North Country Symposium is supported by SLU’s Ellen C. Burt ‘42 Endowment for North Country Education. Parking will be available that day in Lot J off Park Street.