



**Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce
PRESS RELEASE**

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**U.S. Chamber's Institute Program Awards Sam's Club® Scholarship to
Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce Membership Manager
*John Marcantonio to Attend Leadership Training in July***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLENS FALLS, NY (07/07/2011) – Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, announced that John Marcantonio, membership manager of the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce (ARCC) has been awarded a Sam's Club scholarship to begin the program next week. Awarded only to 20 chamber of commerce professionals across the country, the Sam's Club scholarships recognize individuals that exhibit excellent chamber management practices in several areas, including involvement in professional industry organizations, community involvement and demonstrated leadership.

“The U.S. Chamber is proud to join with Sam's Club and provide these dedicated chamber professionals the opportunity to attend Institute and educate them on how to better represent their members and expand their organizations' influence,” said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, vice president of Institute for Organization Management at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. “We are pleased to help John and these other talented individuals advance their careers and organizations, and we appreciate the Sam's Club contribution and commitment to local business communities.”

Since 1921, chambers of commerce and associations have used the U.S. Chamber's Institute program as a training platform for the professional development of their top talent. Institute's curriculum consists of four, weeklong sessions at five different university locations throughout the country. Each week, participants receive training in leadership, advocacy, finance, membership, emerging technologies, and many other organization management competencies. Marcantonio will attend Institute at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California July 10-14, 2011, along with Peter Aust, IOM, president and CEO of the ARCC who is a graduate of Institute and currently serves on the Board of Regents.

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“John is a true Chamber professional at every level and I fully expect to see him make this his lifelong career,” said Connie Gerarde, owner of KEENA and chair of the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. “The enthusiasm and dedication John exhibits have helped our Chamber grow its membership even amidst these tough economic times. As Chair, I have been fortunate to see John’s professional growth first hand and recognize that attending Institute will increase his knowledge, making him an even greater asset to this community and this industry.”

At the completion of the four-year curriculum, each of the recipients will receive the IOM Graduate Recognition, signifying completion of 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management and their commitment to the industry. “Our Chamber believes in the continuing professional development of our dedicated staff and I’m both excited and pleased that John will be joining me at West Institute this year and thankful for the Sam’s Club scholarship that allowed him to attend”, stated Peter Aust, IOM, ARCC President & CEO.

To learn more about Institute for Organization Management, visit www.uschamber.com/institute.

The Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce (ARCC) is a not-for-profit, member-based business organization. The Chamber is a vigorous advocate for the economic success of its 1,000 member businesses, representing in excess of 23,000 people predominantly in Warren, Washington and Northern Saratoga Counties in New York State. ARCC is dedicated to creating economic opportunity and enhancing the quality of life throughout the Adirondack Region.

- www.adirondackchamber.org -