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St. Lawrence University to host North Country Symposium on April 25

St. Lawrence University will host the 14th annual North Country Symposium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, April 25, in the Eben Holden Conference Center. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

This year's theme, "The Many Faces of Entrepreneurship: Creating a Supportive Environment," will explore how the region can diversify and strengthen its economy by creating an environment that identifies, develops and supports entrepreneurs.

Deborah Markley, co-founder and managing director of the **Center for Rural Entrepreneurship**, will lead this year's symposium and its participants in understanding the region's development opportunities and identifying its key stakeholders, champions, entrepreneurial talent and resources. A panel of regional entrepreneurs will share with attendees their insights from the field. Regional experts in entrepreneurship development will provide brief overviews of initiatives already at work in the region.

According to Markley, "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. 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."

The symposium will culminate in working group sessions, where participants will take part in collaborative brainstorming and will work together to:

- 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 within the region
- Establish concrete actions that should be taken to create the supportive environment

The North Country Symposium is supported by St. Lawrence University's Ellen C. Burt '42 Endowment for North Country Education. The Symposium is free to attend, however registration is required. Parking will be available in Lot J off of Park Street. To view a map of the campus, visit www.stlawu.edu/campus-map.

For more information about this year's North Country Symposium, including registration, visit www.stlawu.edu/north-country-symposium or contact Ben Dixon, symposium coordinator, at (315) 229-5664.