

***Statement from County Executive
Marcus J. Molinaro***

following announcement of IBM workforce reduction

“Today, IBM announced an anticipated global workforce reduction as the company moves toward a focus on Big Data, Cloud Computing, social business networking and mobile computing opportunities.

Based on IBM's correspondence with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board, this workforce reduction permanently affects 697 IBM employees working in Dutchess County, and is further indication that the national and state economy remains uncertain. What is certain is that too many families will have been given devastating news today.

Specifically, IBM Poughkeepsie will see a reduction of 328 employees and IBM East Fishkill will see a reduction of 369 employees. The last day of employment for the affected employees will be no earlier than September 10th, 2013.

We understand IBM has made the affected employees eligible for a broad range of services and assistance designed to support them through the transition. Elements include both payment and continuing benefits, as well as access to outplacement services, retraining assistance, personal financial planning and career counseling for the employee, and personal counseling services for employees and their family members.

This morning, in anticipation of an announcement based on industry chatter, our Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Economic Development Ron Hicks reached out to the Governor's Office and the New York State Department of Labor's Regional Rapid Response Coordinator, to set up a conference call with members of the newly created Dutchess County Economic Development Alliance (Dutchess County, Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board, and New York Small Business Development Center) to identify resources available locally with the goal of coordinating a response and offering assistance that augments the state's programs.”

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