

Watkins named to board of NY-BEST

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Barry Watkins, deputy director of the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology at Alfred University, has been named to the board of directors of NY-BEST - the New York Battery and Energy Storage Technology Consortium (NY-BEST). An industry-led coalition of entrepreneurial, academic, corporate and federal partners, NY-BEST is dedicated to "building a vibrant, world-class advanced battery and energy storage sector, from research and development to commercialization, based in New York State." Barry brings to our board the important connection with Alfred University's renowned research programs in ceramics, glass and other materials," said William Acker, executive director of NY-BEST. "Alfred University's faculty and facilities, including a high-temperature materials characterization laboratory, make it an ideal research partner for many of our members, so we were delighted Barry is able to represent the University and its Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology on the board." A closer affiliation with NY-BEST makes sense for Alfred University, said Watkins, noting that several of the members of the consortium are already involved in research initiatives with the school. Watkins brings to the NY-BEST board an extensive background in developing and growing business relationships. In his current position Watkins is directly responsible for developing and implementing a strategic plan for the identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship of corporate, state, federal, foundation and association funding sources for the Center. Watkins was a member of the Alfred University team that was awarded \$2.8M in the first awards made by Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative to fund Alfred University's purchase of equipment for its High Temperature Materials Characterization Center. Watkins has recently been appointed to serve on the advisory board to the International Union for Science and Technology Innovation (IUSTI) which call for an innovation networks that connect domestic and foreign industries, academics and research institute. Also to promote cooperation platforms for science and technology policies, research and development, industries, finance and investment to work together, IUSTI works to bring government, industries, academics, research and development, investment, and groups together to start technology exchange and to grow innovation knowledge, facilitate technology transfer, encourage venture investment, accelerate the commercial applications of science and technology achievements, train people, and to increase international personnel exchanges. By doing these, IUSTI seeks to push forward the building of an all-round national and international innovation system and to contribute ultimately to the building of an innovative nation.