

Watkins re-elected for second term on the board of NY-BEST

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ALFRED, NY (March 25, 2014) Barry Watkins, deputy director of the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT) at Alfred University (AU), was re-elected for a second term on the board of directors of the New York Battery and Energy Storage Consortium (NY-BEST) at the annual meeting this month. His responsibilities as a board member will include chairing the audit committee and co-chairing a newly formed fuel cell working group.

"Barry has contributed greatly to NY-BEST's success through his direct involvement in the creation of the BEST Test & Commercialization Center, his guidance on growing and marketing our organization, and leadership in our fuel cell activities," said William Acker, executive director of NY-BEST. "We are delighted that Barry will continue to serve as a member of our board of directors."

NY-BEST is a rapidly growing organization that was created in 2010 to position New York State as a global leader in energy storage technology, including applications in transportation, grid storage, and power electronics. The consortium has more than 100 members from a number of sectors including manufacturing, academia, public utilities, government entities, and start-up companies in the energy space.

The CACT at Alfred University, which is sponsored by NYSTAR, the science and technology division of Empire State Development Corporation, was an early member of NY-BEST and continues to actively contribute to the organization, noted Matthew Hall, associate professor of biomaterials and glass science in the Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University, and director of the CACT. "Mr. Watkins' involvement as a board member is one such example" of the CACT's involvement in the battery initiative for New York State, he said.

Watkins, who was first elected to the NY-BEST board two years ago, brings to the NY-BEST board an extensive background in developing and growing business relationships. In his current position as deputy director of the Alfred University CACT, 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.