

**For Immediate Release**

August 27, 2013

Contact: Kevin Schwab  
315.470.1800  
[kschwab@centerstateceo.com](mailto:kschwab@centerstateceo.com)



**CenterState CEO Announces 2013 Business Showcase  
Show Features Presentations by Greg Gumbel and Joe Grafton  
George Bodenheimer to Keynote Popular Economic Champions Luncheon**

**SYRACUSE, NY** – CenterState CEO will hold its 2013 CenterState Business Showcase, presented by Time Warner Cable Business Class, October 17th at the Convention Center at Oncenter. Attendees at this year’s showcase and Economic Champions Luncheon will hear from national speakers including Greg Gumbel of CBS Sports, Joe Grafton of the American Independent Business Alliance, and ESPN Executive Chairman George Bodenheimer.

The northeast’s largest business showcase is expected to draw more than 8,000 attendees. Exhibitors are encouraged to sign up early to secure their space. In its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the event will have more to offer than ever including a networking reception presented by CPS and Immediate Mailing Services held on the showcase floor from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

“We value our partnership with CenterState CEO and look forward to its annual Business Showcase, which has a significant impact on our business and employees,” said Joella Wind, Vice President, Product Management and Marketing, East Region, at Time Warner Cable Business Class. “The focus on networking and informative presentations provide exhibitors added visibility and meaningful connections to businesses’ throughout the community.”

This year’s showcase will welcome two nationally recognized speakers. In the morning attendees will hear from CBS Sport’s Greg Gumbel, presented by AmeriCU, and in the afternoon from Joe Grafton a leading local business advocate. They will also have the opportunity to shoot hoops with one of the Syracuse Men’s Basketball Coaches for charity.

“Creating new connection and visibility opportunities for members while providing them with access to industry leaders is what the 2013 CenterState Business Showcase presented by Time Warner Cable Business Class is all about,” said Jane Amico, vice president, Chamber Services at CenterState CEO. “Through our partnership with Galaxy we are able to provide a full day of outreach and programs for our members. We hope our members will take advantage of this day and engage with new and existing clients from across the region.”

Many of the enhancements being made to the show are the result of the partnership between CenterState CEO and Galaxy Communications. This partnership allows for the growth of one of CEO’s most successful membership outreach events. Galaxy Communications and CEO are working together to developing the showcase’s new initiatives, sponsorships, and marketing activities.

“We had a tremendous reaction to last year’s show. We’re bringing top notch, nationally known speakers for this year’s event and we’re confident that it will be another great success,” said Ed Levine, CEO and President of Galaxy Communications.

Again this year, the Economic Champions Luncheon, will be a featured event at the business showcase. The Economic Champions luncheon celebrates more than 250 companies being honored for advancing the region’s economy. George Bodenheimer, executive chairman, ESPN, will deliver the keynote address at the luncheon. In his keynote address, he will talk about providing strategic direction for ESPN’s global business, how he quickly rose to becoming the head of ESPN and how he has stayed in that position longer than anyone else in the company’s history.

CenterState CEO’s Economic Champions are recognized for their contributions to the economic growth of the CenterState New York region through capital expenditures, hiring of new employees, expansion or relocation due to growth, and for state or national recognition. Companies are nominated as Economic Champions for their accomplishments throughout the year by peers, employees, and staff. CenterState CEO will highlight key development projects which are underway or were completed in the past year. It will also show the collective impact of this year’s Economic Champions on our regional economy.

“Fust Charles Chambers is proud to again sponsor CenterState CEO’s annual Economic Champions Luncheon,” said Joe Charles, CEO of Fust Charles Chambers LLP, Certified Public Accountants. “Its combination with the Business Showcase allows for easy access to information and personnel of many of our Economic Champions.”

Sponsorship opportunities are available to CenterState CEO members for both the showcase and luncheon. Please contact Beth Savicki at [bsavicki@centerstateceo.com](mailto:bsavicki@centerstateceo.com) to learn how you can be a part of this exciting event.

To learn more or to reserve your exhibit space for the all new CenterState Business Showcase presented by Time Warner Cable Business Class visit [www.centerstateceo.com](http://www.centerstateceo.com).

**Thank you to our business showcase and luncheon sponsors:**

**The 2013 CenterState Business Showcase**

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***About Greg Gumbel***

Greg Gumbel's almost 40 years of work in the world of sports broadcasting has made him one of the most recognized in the industry. He has covered everything from Major League Baseball to the NBA to the NFL, the Men's NCAA Championship Tournament, the Summer and Winter Olympic games, World Figure Skating Championships and the Daytona 500 to name a few.

Gumbel is a member of the National Board of Advisors for The March of Dimes and is a member of the St. Jude Children's Hospital Sports Council. He is the 2007 Honoree of the prestigious Pat Summerall award for his outstanding work in broadcasting. The 3-time Emmy award winner is also a member of the Board of Regents at his alma mater, Loras College, in Dubuque, Iowa.

***About Joe Grafton***

Joseph Grafton is the Director of Development and Community Engagement, American Independent Business Alliance (AIBA). Grafton has dedicated the last decade of his life to shifting culture and paradigms to support of sustainable local economies and community-based businesses. He is the Founding Executive Director and current Board Member at Somerville Local First, a leading local business alliance, a board member at the Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts, a steering committee member of the New England Local Economy Network, Co-Chair of the Pioneer Valley Slow Money Chapter and Director and Treasurer for the Together Festival, Boston's SXSW.

Grafton lives in Western Massachusetts with his partner Jess, enjoys local craft beer, electronic dance music and undertakings that change the world.

### **About George Bodenheimer**

George Bodenheimer is the executive chairman of ESPN, Inc. providing strategic direction for ESPN's global business and chairing ESPN's board of directors. Bodenheimer is ESPN's longest-tenured president (14 years, 1998-2013).

Bodenheimer began his ESPN career in the administration department as a driver in the mailroom just 16 months after the launch of the network. He learned the company from the ground up by taking positions in affiliate sales and marketing departments throughout the country. During his career at ESPN, he was strategically involved in the development and distribution of the ESPN domestic networks including ESPN2, ESPN Classic, ESPNEWS, ESPN Deportes and ESPNU, as well as ESPN The Magazine, ESPN.com and ESPN Radio.

In 2008, Bodenheimer was inducted into the Cable Hall of Fame for his leadership, innovation and contributions to the cable industry and his community. Bodenheimer serves on the boards of NCTA (The National Cable Telecommunications Association), Cable in the Classroom and the Cable Center, a Denver-based institution that educates and informs about the power of cable television. In 2010, he was named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Board.

Bodenheimer was graduated from Denison University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. He is married with three children.

### **About CenterState CEO**

CenterState CEO is a regional business leadership organization, chamber of commerce, and economic development strategist, based in Syracuse, New York. We represent 2,000 members of all sizes and serve as the primary business resource and catalyst for development in a twelve-county area. We advocate for smart business, facilitate regional growth and promote community prosperity through results-driven partnerships, planning and problem solving. [www.centerstateceo.com](http://www.centerstateceo.com)

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