

# Lyn Taylor

## The Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce President



**the chamber**  
albany-colonie regional chamber of commerce  
vision for business

### SM: How do you achieve balance in your life?

LT: I did not have balance early on in my career. When you are working a 60 hour week, attending events, and planning for the next career advancement, it is very difficult to achieve balance. When my grandchildren were born, I realized what was truly important. My family is definitely my first priority now, and I can plan my events and schedule accordingly. Even though two of my grandchildren are on the west coast, I make time for them and my family. It's incredibly rewarding.

### SM: What advice do you have for a mother considering becoming an entrepreneur?

LT: It is important for anyone attempting to open a new business to have a plan and

### Success Magazine: What does success mean to you?

*Lyn Taylor: Success to me is being in a position which allows me to do something each day that really matters. It is influencing others in a positive way at work, with family and with friends. At work, I want to provide projects that have a positive impact on our community. I also strive to have the same kind of positive influence on my family. Having grandchildren has given me another opportunity to spend time doing something that matters. I try to spend as much time as I can with my grandchildren, sharing with them this positive approach to life.*

truly map out a strategy. You have to be prepared to work very hard, think through your actions and then implement your plan with a dedicated effort. Most of all, you have to have genuine passion for what you are doing. As women, we put more demands on ourselves than necessary. The caregiver mother is often the primary focal point of the family, and it is critical to acknowledge that. It is also important to remember that you can ask for help from your spouse, your family, and friends. You don't have to do everything your self. Work first to ensure that your family base at home is secure. A happy family will bring you a more rewarding life.

### SM: With all of the demands on a working mom, how do you ensure a happy and solid family life?

LT: You must take the time to decide for yourself what is truly important. You don't need to do everything. Decide what you must take care of personally and delegate the rest. Let go of the little things and



those things that you imagine only you can do. Surround yourself with good, quality people whom you can trust to take over. This will allow you to move onto more crucial issues and give them the time they need. On the way up the corporate ladder, we push to be in control and demand more and more of ourselves. Letting go, while it can be tough, can be one of the most productive things we do.

### SM: What prepared you for this role?

LT: Every position I held before coming to the chamber prepared me for this job.

“ I want to make a genuine difference for business leaders, community leaders, local and state government and new members. ”

I graduated from Russell Sage College and initially went into teaching. Teaching provides a great foundation in so many ways. This is where I developed my ability to train and share my thoughts with others. Later, I went into the business of restoring historic buildings. I learned to manage people and projects and I also learned a great deal about business finance. Here at the chamber, we have a \$3,000,000 budget and over 21 employees. Although we are a not-for-profit, we truly run our business as entrepreneurs.

**SM: In what ways is your chamber run as a business?**

LT: We have a business plan with a vision that we implement, in order to accomplish our goals. We have a budget with sales projections that we must meet, in order to pay our expenses. We develop a reserve for our organization so that we are able to make our goals come to life. Our mission is not to generate a profit, but without a responsible business approach to ensure financial security, we cannot complete our vision.

**SM: What are your future goals?**

LT: We want our city and its surrounding area to be highly successful. We hope to attract high paying jobs and new companies to our region, keeping young managers and entrepreneurs working and living in our area. We plan to support the development of the arts, nonprofit companies and a high quality of life for our people.

**SM: What are the goals of GenNEXT?**

LT: We want to build a strong community. The only way to do that is to start with our young professionals. There are so many young people leaving for Boston, New York City or San Francisco. The thing is, many who have left the area want to come back. We need to create jobs and affordable housing, in order to provide a great place for them to work and raise a family.

**SM: How will the Tech Valley opportunities impact the area?**

LT: The Tech Valley expansion will bring new jobs, which will impact all phases of our lives. These jobs will not all be

in technology. Technology companies will have the need for marketing people, accountants, lawyers and food service providers – just like any other company. As more firms open in our Tech Valley and relocate here, we will work with them to provide our young people the opportunities needed to enhance their future.

**SM: Why have you chosen to work as President of the Chamber?**

LT: I have always loved this area. I am passionate about making a difference through the Chamber. My main goal is to make the Chamber and the surrounding area successful. I want to make a genuine difference for both business leaders and the community as a whole. In short, serving as president of the Chamber gives me the opportunity to do something each day that matters.

**SM: In one word describe yourself.**

LT: Entrepreneurial.

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