



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS WELCOMES SPECIAL OLYMPICS SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE TO MONROE COUNTY

At a ceremony held this afternoon at the Greater Rochester International Airport, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks joined SUNY Brockport President John Halstead to welcome the Special Olympics Site Selection Committee to the community. Monroe County is one of two finalists for the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games.

Joining Brooks and Halstead for the announcement were several local Special Olympians, representatives of Special Olympics-Genesee Region, and members of the Monroe County Sports Commission.

“Monroe County is recognized as one of the best sports towns in the nation. Sports are an important part of our community’s economic vitality and quality of life. We estimate the National Games would bring over \$20 million into our local economy,” said Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks**. *“We look forward to the opportunity to welcome 3,500 talented athletes from across the country, as well as the 10,000 family and friends who would visit our area to cheer them on.”*

“SUNY Brockport is proud to be a major player in the bid process for the 2010 National Special Olympic Games,” said **John R. Halstead**, President of the College. *“We are excited about everything from hosting the athletes and coaches to showcasing our facilities and providing volunteer opportunities for our faculty, staff and students to participate in this outstanding event. When the Brockport community hosted the International Special Olympics in 1979, an indelible mark was left on our campus. We would be thrilled to have the honor of hosting an event of this magnitude again.”*

“We are looking forward to spending the next few days in the Rochester area visiting the venues and facilities. We appreciate Monroe County’s hospitality,” said **Greg Epperson**, Director of Sports, Special Olympics North America.

The Site Selection Committee will spend the next three days touring the community and visiting sports venues and facilities, including Frontier Field, the Webster Aquatic Center, the Convention Center, Blue Cross Arena, SUNY Brockport, and RIT.

The 2010 National Games would be the second National Games for Special Olympics. The first National Games were held in Ames, Iowa in 2006.

The seven day National Games, to be held in the month of July, include 13 different sports competitions: aquatics, athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, cycling, football, gymnastics, power lifting, softball, tennis, volleyball and golf.

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