

EMPIRE CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 24, 2014

CONTACT: Ken Girardin
(518) 434-3100

SYRACUSE COPS, FIREFIGHTERS ARE HIGHEST-PAID IN CNY

The Empire Center for Public Policy today released the 2014 edition of “What They Make,” an overview of local government payrolls (outside New York City) for the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

The following table shows the five highest-paying employers in the Central New York region, which includes Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties, for general employees and police or firefighters:

General Employees			Police or Firefighters		
Employer	#	Avg.	Employer	#	Avg.
Onondaga (county)	4,374	\$46,158	Syracuse (city)	774	\$83,882
Skaneateles (village)	16	\$45,136	Fulton (city)	71	\$81,839
Cortlandville (town)	41	\$44,760	Auburn (city)	137	\$73,441
Auburn (city)	156	\$44,302	DeWitt (town)	38	\$72,986
Cortland (county)	546	\$41,978	Camillus (town)	23	\$70,486

The highest-paid local government employee in the region was Onondaga Community College Senior Vice President David W. Murphy, who was paid \$195,462. The second highest-paid employee was Jason T. Stepkovitch, a psychiatrist who was paid \$189,894 by Cortland County. The names, employers and pay of the 10 highest-paid employees in the region are attached.

The amounts listed in the report do not include fringe benefits such as health insurance or pension contributions, which can add more than 35 percent to the cost for taxpayers.

“The Empire Center produces this report because it is committed to protecting the right of taxpayers to know how their money is being spent,” said Executive Director Tim Hofer. “Employee compensation is the single largest component of most municipal budgets. Pairing this pay data with the localized spending data in SeeThroughNY’s Benchmarking NY tool, taxpayers can get a real sense of how their local governments are spending their tax dollars.”

The Empire Center is an independent, non-partisan, 501(c)3 think tank based in Albany. Each year, the Empire Center obtains and processes payroll information from public employers across the state. To read the full report, visit empirecenter.org/publications/wtm14. The Benchmarking New York tool, as well as individual payroll records, are posted at the Empire Center’s transparency website SeeThroughNY.net.

EMPIRE CENTER

Top 10 Municipal Employee Pay in Central New York April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Employee	Employer	Pay
David W. Murphy	Onondaga County	\$195,462
Jason T. Stepkovitch	Cortland County	\$189,894
Abbas Ispahani	Cayuga County	\$185,631
Cynthia B. Morrow	Onondaga County	\$172,453
David Mirizio	City of Syracuse	\$161,972
William J. Fitzpatrick	Onondaga County	\$160,000
Gary N. Bulinski	City of Syracuse	\$156,213
William J. Mitson	City of Syracuse	\$152,189
William G. Gabor	Madison County	\$150,411
Jon E. Budelmann	Cayuga County	\$150,159

Source: *SeeThroughNY.net*