

**“A Vision for Sustainability and Growth
in Savona, New York”**

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ATP PROJECT OUTLINE

PROJECT FOCUS: Alfred State will complete a community visualization study of the Steuben County Village of Savona, New York in order to help the residents and municipal officials envision potential strategies for revitalizing their business district and surrounding neighborhoods.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Course Number, Name, and Instructor:

ARCH 7306 – Design Studio 5 – 6 credit hours
Professor William Dean, RA, AIA, Instructor

Community Partner:

Village of Savona, New York
Gregge Harrian, Mayor

Need:

Alfred State – SUNY College of Technology is located in Allegany County, one of the poorest areas in New York’s Appalachian Region. With a county-wide population approaching 50,000 residents, communities tend to be very small with limited resources and part-time governments. Local community organizations and municipalities in Allegany and adjacent Southern Tier counties are especially in need of assistance with respect to long-range planning to create strategies for sustainable development of projects ranging from façade improvements to large-scale infrastructure repair and replacement.

Number and description of planned meetings with the community partner:

In addition to municipal officials and town residents, the students will also have the opportunity to work with architects, planners and landscape architects from a local firm involved in authoring a comprehensive plan for the town. The expertise of these design professionals will supplement the faculty instruction in this integrated studio that seeks to align architectural design with the realities of contemporary practice. Initial meetings, both in Savona and via teleconference, will occur every two weeks with students and faculty or as necessary leading up to the start of the project. Once the project begins, meetings for data gathering and to participate in a design workshop will occur in Savona again with both students and faculty. Both interim and final design presentations will take place on the Alfred State campus

and the students will publicly present their work in Savona at the end of the project to municipal officials and town residents.

Overview of the project, including its central focus (10-12 sentences):

In Fall 2014, Professor William Dean will lead the Architecture and Design Department's senior Urban Design Studio in working with the Village of Savona, which is located in New York's Southern Tier, as the subject for the semester's community visualization study. Working individually and in small groups, students will be expected to research and document the subject area and complete a site analysis which includes a visual survey of the defined physical characteristics representing Urban Design Excellence and Design Linkages within the community. The report will also identify the municipalities' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats based on conversations with area residents and local officials.

The information generated during these initial efforts will be used as a point of departure to illustrate and explain a positive vision for sustainability and growth of the Village of Savona through community engagement. The overall goal through student engagement of the community is to develop an inclusive community visualization study that includes a series of design interventions based on the village's recently-completed comprehensive plan. The study will include a series of before and thematic after images intended to help local officials and residents envision possibilities for future development. Implementation will be possible through grant funding that will require the community to have a clearly defined vision to supplement the new comprehensive plan.

Goals and Objectives:

- Students will attend an initial public meeting at the Savona Village Hall organized by the faculty and municipal officials and intended to identify sites within the community which are underutilized, have future development potential, or are being promoted for future development by local officials.
- Students will investigate the Village of Savona to collect economic, social, and environmental information, as well as to document the physical characteristics of the project area. Following the site visit, the studio group will work together to refine and coordinate the collected information into a seamless Site Analysis of Savona.
- A community design workshop will be used to generate conceptual ideas for future development.
- The studio will complete a community visualization study focused on suggesting appropriate development in the municipality three, five, and ten years into the future.

- The community visualization study will include action items for implementation and will be presented by the students, to community residents both on the Alfred State campus and at a public meeting in the Village of Savona in late November or early December 2014.
- The community visualization study will be available for use for future planning and for working toward implementation via possible grant funding.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- This project will continue the partnership between local communities and Alfred State in serving the Appalachian area of New York State.
- This project will serve as a model for creating sustainable communities in the region by capitalizing on their assets through community visualization studies.
- This project is consistent with the goals of the ARC strategic plan and the local Southern Tier Central planning and development board.
- This project will develop a network of students and faculty across the region who may continue research and service partnerships beyond the current project – expanding this project to include grant-based funding for future classes using the community visualization studies developed.
- This project will develop leadership and civic engagement opportunities among students involved in the project by working with the local rural communities.
- This project will enhance student and community awareness of the work of the ARC at all levels.
- Deliverables will include a public presentation of the research to community members both on the Alfred State campus and at a public meeting in the Village of Savona in late November or early December 2014; an exhibit of the student work at the Rochester Regional Community Design Center in Rochester, New York in early December 2014; presentation of the research in Washington, DC, at the December 2014 ATP Conference, and the creation of a poster for the event.