CB2 Financial is a local tech start-up established by two former banking executives. CB2 Financial has created cloud-based technology specifically for community banks that is designed to improve both their financial and regulatory performance. Its founders, John Merrill and Tim Finkenstaedt, launched their company within the Worcester Idea Lab on 20 Franklin Street in 2016. Since this time, John and Tim have expanded, hiring a Technology Advisor and securing new office space in the 20 Franklin Street 4th floor ‘accelerator’ space. As CB2 brings community banking to the technological cutting edge, CB2 is poised to become the next great success story of the Downtown renaissance.

The WBDC honors CB2 Financial Services for their commitment of making Worcester their corporate home.

The Answer is Downtown Award

Keynote Speaker

Susan Dexter has over 30 years of experience in Chemistry, Manufacturing & Controls (CMC) aspects of drug development and business development in the biotechnology industry. Ms. Dexter worked as a scientist doing research in cell culture, animal models and small-scale manufacturing, before moving into the business of science and selling biotechnology contract manufacturing (CMO) services. Ms. Dexter has supported multiple start-up companies, as well as established biotech, pharmaceutical and technology companies.

Prior to joining Latham Biopharm Group, Ms. Dexter was Chief Business Officer at Xcellerex, Inc. (now GE Healthcare). She was involved in the development and commercialization of new and disruptive single use technologies for bio-manufacturing processing and performed all business development activities and negotiations in support of the Contract Development & Manufacturing Operations (CDMO) business at Xcellerex.

Prior to Xcellerex, Ms. Dexter was VP of Business Development at Dow Chemical Company’s Biopharmaceutical CMO, involved in the establishment of the Contract Development & Manufacturing Operations (CDMO) business at Xcellerex.

Recognition of Outstanding Directors .......... Roberta L. Brien, Vice President of Projects

The Answer is Downtown Award .......... Craig L. Blais, President & CEO

Rededication .......... City Councilor Candy Mero-Carkan

Bawditch Award Presentation .......... Craig L. Blais

Introduction of Keynote .......... Roberta L. Brien

Keynote .......... Susan Dexter, Managing Director

Latham Biopharm Group

Closing Remarks .......... Craig L. Blais

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 Shortly after her swearing in as Lieutenant Governor, Karyn Polito began working with Worcester officials to create a Task Force to pursue the establishment of a Biomanufacturing Park under the new Baker-Polito Administration’s Open for Business Program. The work involved turning an underutilized state asset into a productive development project. There were many moving pieces to this project which involved Federal, State and local issues, complicated historic title restrictions, legislative action, tenant relocations, infrastructure upgrades, and the preparation of a proposal to designate a developer. The Task Force met regularly and quickly identified that there was unanimous consensus that the development of a Biomanufacturing Park would be the top priority for converting this vacant parcel.

Over the next 24 months, the Task Force prepared a proposal, a developer was designated, legislation was filed and passed and the land was transferred to the WBDC as the Park developer. This incredible effort will put the final piece in place for our successful Life Sciences Cluster in Worcester that includes the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, the UMass Science Park, formerly known as the Massachusetts Biotechnology Park, and now the Worcester Biomanufacturing Park. For this incredible effort for the future of the Worcester area, the WBDC is pleased and honored to present the 2018 Robert S. Bowditch Economic Development Award to Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Chair and the Worcester Biomanufacturing Task Force.