



Dear Neighbors,

I want to begin this weeks newsletter with a heartfelt congratulations to Ithaca's own Ascribe Bioscience, winner of a \$500,000 award from Grow NY! [Ascribe Bioscience](#) uses naturally occurring signaling molecules from the soil microbiome to produce a novel class of broad-spectrum, non-toxic biopesticides that prime the plants' immune systems to enhance resistance to pathogens and increase crop yields. What an inspiring project!



[Grow-NY](#) is a food innovation and agriculture technology business competition, which is focused on enhancing the emerging food, beverage and agriculture innovation cluster in Central New York, the Finger Lakes, and the Southern Tier. The winning teams must commit to operating in the Central New York, Finger Lakes, or Southern Tier regions for at least one year, while providing Grow-NY with a small equity investment stake in each entity. Funding for the competition, which is administered by Cornell University's Center for Regional Economic Advancement, is provided through the state's Upstate Revitalization Initiative.



**Let's Stay Safe as We Head into the Holiday Season!**

As we head into the holiday season, it is critical that we continue to work together to protect our community from COVID-19. We know what to do: get vaccinated, get a booster shot if you are fully vaccinated, and please stay home if you are feeling sick.

COVID-19 vaccination booster shots are now authorized for all individuals 18 years and older who received the Pfizer or Moderna series 6 months ago or the J&J vaccine at least 2 months ago. Booster shots will help maximize your protection from COVID-19 and protect our community from further spread.

Booster dose appointments are available at [local pharmacies](#), [state vaccination sites](#), and some medical offices.



## **Nourish New York is Permanent!**

Helping farmers get surplus products to food insecure families - Nourish New York is now a permanent state program! To learn more, visit: [www.agriculture.ny.gov/NourishNY](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/NourishNY)



Finally, as we enter the holiday season, my team and I are all looking forward to spending some time with our families this week. I am excited to slow down for a few days, take the dogs for some walks in

the woods, and work on a jigsaw puzzle with my family. Wishing you all peace and sending you my deep gratitude for all that you do to support and strengthen our community.

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
LOB 833  
Albany, NY 12248  
518-455-5444

**CORTLAND OFFICE**  
83 Main St  
PO Box 5026  
Cortland, NY 13045  
607-208-2024

**ITHACA OFFICE**  
106 East Court Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-277-8030

Assembly District 125 | [kellesa@nyassembly.gov](mailto:kellesa@nyassembly.gov)

