SUNY Fredonia’s Engagement and Economic Development Office teamed up Governor Cuomo, Chautauqua County Executive Vince Horrigan and Fredonia Mayor Steve Keefe to host the Chautauqua County Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program, held at the Williams Center on the campus of SUNY Fredonia. Over 200 people attended the program which is part of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s commitment to train 100,000 New Yorkers in emergency preparedness. Along with the Governor, the event was also sponsored by Senator Catherine Young and Assemblyman Andrew Goodell. The Governor’s Office and SUNY Fredonia helped organize the event. The community engagement event consisted of SUNY Fredonia students, faculty, staff and community leaders. Approximately three-fourths of those in attendance were from the community.

The Citizen Preparedness Corps provides residents with the tools and resources needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters as quickly as possible. Citizen Preparedness Corps training was led by the New York National Guard, working with experts from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services’ Office of Emergency Management, and Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The training provided an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants were advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. A key component of this training was the distribution of free NYS Disaster Preparedness Kits to all participants (one per family) containing key items to assist individuals in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. The state training and kits help New Yorkers be the most-trained and best-prepared citizens in the country.