



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Lea Webb

Senator Lea Webb Announces \$22,000 in State Funding for the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center

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BINGHAMTON, NY - Senator Lea Webb, an advocate for education and community progress, has announced funding for Kopernik Observatory & Science Center as part of her ongoing commitment to advancing scientific exploration and learning in the Southern Tier. On August 8th, 2023, Senator Webb revealed that she has successfully secured a grant of \$22,000 from New York State to bolster the vital operations and educational endeavors of the esteemed Kopernik Observatory & Science Center.

Established in 1974, the Kopernik Observatory stands as a symbol of reverence to the pioneering legacy of Mikolaj Kopernik, better known as Copernicus, the luminary who revolutionized the field of astronomy. The observatory was founded by the Kopernik Society of Broome County nearly 50 years ago and has welcomed hundreds of thousands of individuals to engage in the marvels of science through its immersive and interactive programs. It stands as a beacon of learning and discovery, offering state-of-the-art facilities and equipment to both K-12 students and educators.

"Investing in science, technology, engineering, and math is more than just financial support; it's an investment in the future of our youth and the progress of our community," **said Senator Lea Webb.** "I was happy to secure \$22,000 for the Kopernik Observatory in Vestal to do just that. This funding will undoubtedly contribute to expanding horizons and nurturing the young minds of the Southern Tier. I am always proud to support organizations that cultivate curiosity, fuel

innovation, and spark a lifelong love for learning. Thank you to the Kopernik Observatory for their commitment to expanding equitable access to these integral professional fields.”

Drew Deskur, Executive Director of the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center, expressed enthusiasm about the impact of this funding. “Kopernik Observatory & Science Center is excited to have received this grant with Senator Webb’s assistance. It will allow Kopernik to make important updates to the programs and its associated technology being offered to schools in support of the New York State Science Learning Standard being rolled out in the coming school year.”

The grant secured by Senator Lea Webb represents not just a financial allocation, but a testimony to her enduring commitment to education, innovation, and community empowerment. It underscores her belief in the potential of the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center to ignite the flame of scientific curiosity and ignite a passion for lifelong learning.