**NEW YORK CAPITAL REGION HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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The New York Capital Region Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is holding a fiesta this fall to spotlight its educational plans and to honor one of its founding members.

On October 5, the Chamber will celebrate the pioneering and successful enterprises of Pilar Dexter, co-founder and CEO of Straight Line Industries, Inc., a highway pavement-marking contractor.

Dexter is also one of the founding members of the Capital Region Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

SLI is a woman- and minority-owned business based in Cohoes with approximately 30 employees. The company's line markings can be seen on highways, airports, racing surfaces and parking lots throughout New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Jersey.

Before creating SLI in 1993, Dexter was Administrative Director for health care consultants, The Wilkerson Group, Inc. in New York City for 12 years. She also used her fluency in Spanish to work as a bi-lingual assistant for the United Nations Development Programme.

In the 28 years she has run the business, Dexter has earned multimillion dollar government contracts for her company, succeeding as a certified Minority Women Business Enterprise in a largely male-dominated field. Dexter has been active in the local chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction.

Dexter, who lives in West Sand Lake with her husband, is retiring from SLI in October.

Dexter was born in Hackensack, N.J. the daughter of a German father and Mexican mother. She is a graduate of Georgetown University with a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations. She also earned a Master’s degree in adolescent education from the College of St. Rose in Albany.

Dexter will be honored with the Chamber’s first President's Award for Outstanding Hispanic Business Figures on Friday, October 5 in the Courtyard of the Capital District Latinos building at [160 Central Ave., Albany](https://maps.google.com/?q=160+Central+Ave.,+Albany&entry=gmail&source=g). The event, called "Connecting with Latinos in the capital Region," begins at 5 p.m.

Hispanic Chamber President Laudelina Martinez is particularly pleased to be giving the Chamber’s first President’s award to Dexter, a woman whom Martinez said, "has been a pioneer in tackling new areas for women, and as such is a model for younger women who'd like to eliminate gender-based barriers."

Tickets for the event are $50 each and may be purchased through [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com/)/e/fiesta-connecting-with-capital-region-Latinos-tickets.

*The NY Capital Region Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that provides leadership and promotes economic development of Hispanic Businesses in this area. More information is at our website: Nycrhispanicchamber.com*

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