

From the Desk of  
**New York State Senator Marc Panepinto**  
District 60

## **RELEASE: Panepinto Recognizes Lou Jean Fleron As A 2015 NYS Senate “Woman of Distinction”**

### *Tireless Advocate For Western New York To Be Honored In Albany*

**\*Picture to follow**

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** – Senator Marc Panepinto (D-Buffalo) announced today that Lou Jean Fleron of Buffalo, Director of High Road Fellowships at Cornell University’s Industrial Labor Relations School, has been recognized as a 2015 New York State Senate “Woman of Distinction.”

“A tireless advocate for worker’s rights, Lou Jean’s dedication to serving others has had a profound impact on shaping Western New York for more than 35 years,” said Senator Panepinto. “Her research and hands-on approach continues to be a positive agent for change in this community, and I’m proud to be able to honor her for that today.”

**Lou Jean Fleron will be honored at a reception at 5:30 in Albany where her photograph and biography will be on display during a special public exhibit at the Legislative Office Building.**

**Background on Ms. Fleron:**

A third generation educator, Lou Jean Fleron has held a place on Cornell University’s ILR School faculty since 1977. She currently directs High Road Fellowships, a program designed to put Cornell students to work to revitalize the Western New York economy.

Prior to that, Lou Jean served as Cornell ILR’s statewide Director of Workforce, Industry and Economic Development, and founded the Institute for Industry Studies. Nationally recognized programs, they provided applied research and education to employers, unions and policy makers from the auto and metals industries to telecommunications and the arts.

A co-director of the Partnership for Public Good, Lou Jean oversees a community-based think-tank uniting more than 185 organizational partners to build a more just, sustainable and vibrant Buffalo. As part of that work, in 2013, Lou Jean served as project director for work that earned the Open Society Foundation’s long-term investment in Buffalo – one of only three sites in the United States.

Established in 1998, the Senate’s “Woman of Distinction” Program celebrates the contributions of women like Lou Jean who serve as an example to all New Yorkers. One woman from each Senate district, annually, is recognized.

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