

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Center for Technology in Government Hosts Seminar on How to Use Information: Session Features Tools, Skills, and Cases Designed to Help Public Managers

Albany, NY - All business decisions require information. But with the emergence of new technologies, it has become harder for managers to know what analytical tools they should use to get the most out of their information for planning, evaluation, and decision making.

"Information Use Tools and Skill Sets" is a half-day seminar designed to shed some light on this issue. Sponsored by the Center for Technology in Government at the University at Albany/SUNY, in conjunction with the New York State Forum for Information Resource Management, the seminar takes place Tuesday, May 4, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Assembly Hall. Attendance is free, but limited.

"While government program managers have historically had information management responsibilities, the resources and skills needed to effectively fulfill those responsibilities are evolving as technology advances and the demand for outcome measurement and program accountability increases," said Theresa Pardo, project director at the Center for Technology in Government and one of the seminar presenters.

The "Information Use Tools and Skill Sets" seminar will address public managers' needs for new skill sets, information-related competencies, technical tools, and techniques to ensure that relevant information is identified and used for planning and decision making. New York State program managers from the Department of Health, Office of Mental Health, and Department of Transportation will present their real life experiences in how they are dealing with this issue in their agencies.

This seminar is the second in a series of meetings designed to teach the public about the lessons learned in the first year of the Center's "Using Information in Government" program. This program has uncovered a number of techniques, strategies, and practices that can help managers make better use of information in their organizations. The next seminar, "**What Rules Govern the Use of Information?**" will take place in October at the University at Albany.

The Center for Technology in Government is an applied research center devoted to improving government and public services through policy, management, and technology innovation. The Center, located at the University at Albany/State University of New York, works with government, corporate, and academic partners to pursue new ways of applying computing and communications technologies to the practical problems of information management and service delivery in the public sector.