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U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-NY, is seeking federal funding to convert the former Tryon Juvenile Detention Center into a new technology park and business incubator. The 515-acre property, in Fulton County, has sat idle for more than three years.

Schumer, during a Thursday tour of the site, called on the Northern Border Regional Commission to give \$120,000 in federal dollars to Fulton County, which would use it to convert Tryon's central building into a business training center run by Fulton Montgomery Community College. "The entire Tryon project, and the new incubator at the center of it, has the potential to attract new companies, create new jobs and completely reinvigorate the local economy," Schumer said. "Fulton Montgomery College already has plans in place to turn part of this building into lab and classroom space for its new Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Trades Program, and we must do all we can to make this happen. There is a real need for workers in these fields, and the sooner this program can get off the ground at Tryon, the sooner FMCC will be able to provide more local students with the skills needed to fill a host of jobs around the region."

Schumer said the proposed Tryon Technology Park and Incubator Center would be strategically located within New York state's Tech Valley, centered between three key high-tech projects – GlobalFoundries in Malta, the College of Nanoscience and Engineering in Albany and Marcy Nanocenter in Utica. The state closed Tryon Juvenile Detention Center in 2011, part of an ongoing reduction in the state's prison system that included the recent closure of Mount McGregor Correctional Facility in Wilton.

Tryon is perhaps best known as the place that launched the boxing career of future heavyweight champion "Iron" Mike Tyson. That's where he was discovered by Bobby Stewart, a counselor and former boxer who trained Tyson for several months before introducing him to Cus D'Amato, who had previously trained heavyweight champion Floyd Paterson. D'Amato, with help from trainer Kevin Rooney, was responsible for Tyson's quick rise through the amateur and pro ranks to become the youngest heavyweight champion in boxing history.

Tryon's closure resulted in the loss of hundreds of jobs to an already depressed area of upstate New York. In January, the Tryon campus was turned over to Fulton County Industrial Development Agency. Earlier this year, Fulton County secured a \$2 million Empire State Development grant to replace some water and sewer infrastructure and rebuild a section of the internal access road. This work began in June 2014 and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

These infrastructure improvements will result in the creation of approximately 300 acres of shovel-ready sites. Fulton County is seeking an additional \$120,000 in federal funding to transform the former detention center's main building into a business training center. However, the building needs considerable work as its heating, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, water, wastewater and electrical systems have been shut down since 2011. These systems must be restarted and repaired to make them operational.

In addition, over the course of the time these systems have been turned off, the combined effect of heat and humidity and the lack of an operational ventilation system resulted in moisture damage and mold forming inside the building, that must be removed before the building can be reused. The classrooms,



laboratory, and workshop space will also need to be cleaned and painted before the HVACR program can become operational.