



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: March 11, 2020**

**Contact: Audrey Schwartzberg (518) 891-6200, [aschwartzberg@adirondack.org](mailto:aschwartzberg@adirondack.org)**

**ANCA Hires Local Food Systems Coordinator**

*Adam Dewbury brings research and industry experience to position*

**SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.** — The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) has announced the hire of its new Local Food Systems Coordinator. Adam Dewbury will coordinate the economic development organization’s Food Systems program, which addresses issues, opportunities and policies that affect North Country farmers and food producers.

Dewbury, who grew up in Saranac Lake and currently lives in Lake Clear, joined ANCA’s 13-person staff with a full-time appointment on March 9, 2020.

“Adam brings key strengths to the ANCA team as we strive to improve outcomes for our region’s farms and food businesses,” said Kate Fish, the nonprofit’s executive director. “Adam’s experience with food entrepreneurs, combined with his research and analysis skills, will help us target our programs and advocacy work in ways that effectively support North Country food producers as well as the families, institutions and communities that enjoy their products.”

Dewbury has over 20 years of experience in the restaurant and food processing industries, including ten years in Ithaca, N.Y., which is known for its early adoption of the farm-to-table movement, farmers markets and thriving local food scene. He has also consulted with small-scale food manufacturers in product development, regulatory compliance and marketing.

In December 2019, Dewbury earned a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University with concentrations in sociocultural anthropology and anthropological archaeology. His research interests include the relations between people, markets and nature; social and environmental conflicts; and the interconnections between conservation and development. Dewbury also holds two Master’s degrees in anthropology from Binghamton University and Cornell University.

“Research shows that local food systems can have positive effects on local and regional economies,” said Dewbury. “But they also have important social benefits. Strong and sustainable local food systems rely on community networks and support diverse, connected communities.”

Dewbury said he will build on ANCA's prior work with farm to school programs, food hub development and grant programs for local food producers, including its recent Local Farm Grant program, which awarded over \$100,000 in funds to eight North Country farms. He said he also wants to work with regional partners to expand local food access for middle- and low-income families.

"While conducting my doctoral research in the Adirondack Park, I found that many people were interested in local foods, but lacked the financial resources to obtain them," Dewbury said. "If we want our local food systems to be strong, sustainable and just, then they also need to be inclusive. We need to figure out how to get local food into the hands of our neighbors in an affordable way."

[ANCA](#) is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. ANCA's community-informed, results-driven strategies for local food producers, small business owners, would-be entrepreneurs and municipal innovators offer targeted interventions that are designed to keep wealth and value in local communities.

**Attached: one (1) PDF document and one (1) photo**

*Photo of Adam Dewbury courtesy of ANCA*

###