225 South Fulton Street 607.319.5095

Ithaca, NY 14850 groundswellcenter.org

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Elizabeth Gabriel, Director, elizabeth@groundswellcenter.org, 607.319.5095

**Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming**

 **Announces ‘Farm to Plate’ Conference**

**Ithaca, NY—** [Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming](http://www.groundswellcenter.org) is pleased to announce “**The Farm to Plate Conference: Uniting to Create, Educate, and Celebrate a Sustainable Local Food System**” which will take place on May 11-13, 2017 in Ithaca, NY and the surrounding areas.

The conference is a collaborative effort by Bloodroot Collective, Groundswell Center, Food, Agroecology, Justice and Well-being Collective at Cornell, community member and EVI resident Jay Smith, the Tompkins County Food Policy Council and the Youth Farm Project. Additional collaborations are still underway.

The Farm to Plate Conference, originally conceptualized by community member, food producer and educator Damon Brangman, has a vision to honor our ancestors, the land and local farmers, to share knowledge and resources about food production, preparation and community-wide resilience strategies, and build sustainable campus/community relationships. Though still in development, the current goals of the conference are to bring together people who are a part of and influence our community’s food system from multiple sectors to:

* Celebrate the vibrant food and farming culture of the region
* Share knowledge to create equitable, sustainable pathways
* Bring scholars and practitioners together with the community to better link theory with practice on the themes of agroecology, food justice, and general wellbeing
* Explore ideas of collaboration and build a long-lasting network
* Share and redistribute the abundance of resources in our community

The Farm to Plate Conference is funded in part by the Park Foundation, the Cornell Polson Institute for Global Development, the Cornell Einaudi Center for International Studies. In an effort to keep conference attendee costs low or zero, we welcome business sponsorship and individual donations.

For more information, to donate, or get involved please visit: **http://groundswellcenter.org/farm-to-plate-conference/** or contact info@groundswellcenter.org 607-319-5095.

*The Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming is project of the not-for-profit Center for Transformative Action. Support for Groundswell comes from individuals and businesses who believe in the importance of a strong local food system, and from the Park Foundation and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program under grant #11674923*. *For more information visit* [*www.groundswellcenter.org*](http://www.groundswellcenter.org)*.*

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