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Opinion

Visionary New York Genome Center aims to stir up the city's economy

Consortium of leading institutions will create jobs and a hub of genetic research and commerce

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NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2012, 4:10 AM

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SHAWN INGLIMA

Founding executive director Nancy Kelley expects great things of the New York Genome Center.

An exciting new high-tech venture is set to bring a raft of jobs to the city — along with the likelihood of making New York a leader in a field it has long lagged.

The field is genomics, the transcription and study of DNA to unlock biological secrets and eventually attack disease.

The institution is the New York Genome Center, which is about to sign a lease for a facility that will offer cutting-edge capabilities to doctors and researchers who already make the city a world health care leader.

Add this to the breakthrough Cornell-Technion applied science campus set to be built on Roosevelt Island, and New York is starting to get positioned to diversify an economy that's long been overreliant on Wall Street.

The elusive final piece of the puzzle: Improving the city's public schools so that someday, these high-tech ventures are staffed by native New Yorkers, not out-of-



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EDITORS' PICKS

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Of course, Masahiro Tanaka had 155 million reasons to sign with the



towners and immigrants (see editorial below).

The Genome Center begins with a basic premise. The sequencing of human DNA — the genes that dictate every aspect of every living organism — will yield deeper understanding of diseases and ultimately, perhaps, cures.

Since the first sequencing of the human genome a decade ago, genomics has exploded into a \$7.4 billion-a-year industry, with the potential to deliver personalized treatment to every human based on his or her makeup.

The industry is poised for growth because the cost of genome mapping is falling rapidly (from billions in 2003 to mere thousands today) and its speed is accelerating thanks to ever more powerful computers.

In recent years, universities in Boston, Houston, St. Louis and Seattle seized the initiative. Center executive director Nancy Kelley reckons that the city "has lost a genomic decade" as competitors raced ahead.

A state-of-the-art \$150 million gene-decoding facility in lower Manhattan, financed almost entirely with private dollars, will be a resource to researchers from all over the city — and a magnet for brainiacs from around the world.

The center plans to hire 500 staff over the next few years, including research scientists, specialists to interpret the material and technicians to develop new information technology.

Today, all this will mean employment growth, economic activity and increased tax revenue for the city and state.

Tomorrow, it will mean deeper understanding about now hidden and mysterious workings of the human body.

The day after tomorrow, it could begin to deliver breakthrough therapies to Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and cancer.

No promises, but loads and loads of promise.

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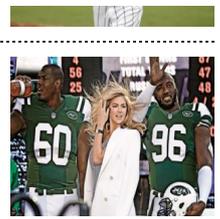
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Yankees. But the club tried

Kate Upton: Curves ahead

Kate Upton is taking the fashion industry by storm with her voluptuous curves and girl-next-door appeal. And now she's headed to



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The violent late-night fight that ended with the death of



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The Giants' new running back tutor just may help Eli Manning, too. On Wednesday, the Giants



Sheer delight: Carmen suffers fashion oops

With the paparazzi ready to snap their every move, you would think that celebrities would be smart enough to



Tanaka and Yankees agree on \$155M deal

The Yankees got the pitcher they desperately needed Wednesday, agreeing to a seven-year, \$155-million contract with



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roads following Winter

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The Rangers have traded left-handed defenseman Michael Del Zotto to the Nashville Predators in



Wendy Williams breaks down: 'My son doesn't like me anymore'

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Are things getting icy on the otherwise steamy "Fifty Shades of Grey" set? Director Sam Taylor-



Former Cowboy Josh Brent found guilty of killing friend in drunken car wreck

Former Dallas Cowboys player Josh Brent was convicted of intoxication



Elizabeth Vargas to go back on air after rehab stint for alcohol abuse

"20/20" anchor Elizabeth Vargas could be back on the air by Friday. The 51-



Myers' Super Bowl Confidential: Manning's audible led away from Carroll, Seahawks

Peyton Manning and the Broncos were a perfect



Bruce Springsteen's son becomes firefighter in New Jersey

Streets of fire? Firefighter Sam Springsteen, youngest son of the Boss, is on the



Vince Young is broke, files for bankruptcy

Former NFL and University of Texas quarterback Vince Young has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The petition was



A-Rod 'needs to be scared' if he returns to MLB: players

Alex Rodriguez "needs to be scared" of returning to baseball after his doping ban, according to a Yahoo



Ike's dad says Mets 'screwed up' trade situation

The Mets "really screwed up" and "backed themselves into a corner"



this winter with the way



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