



Consortium Connections

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WNY Consortium of Higher Education Receives National Media Attention!

The WNY higher education sector is accustomed to national and local media highlighting its impact on the region. However, in a recent article in *Inside Higher Ed*, the WNY Consortium of Higher Education was the focus of an article titled, *Competing and Collaborating* by Mitch Smith. The article contained quotes from Cynthia Zane, Rev. Joseph Levesque, and Steven Harvey. In addition, when speaking about the Foundation's support of the Consortium, Blythe Merrill, Vice President of the *John R. Oishei Foundation* stated, "I think we've gotten quite a bit of bang for our buck." For more information on this article and additional news coverage of the WNY higher education sector, go to www.wnycollegeconnection.com.

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Women's Leadership Institute Graduates Inaugural Class of 2012!

The inaugural class of the WNY Consortium of Higher Education's new *Women's Leadership Institute*, comprised of **42 participants** from 18 member institutions, will be honored at a celebration from 4-7 p.m. April 11th in the University at Buffalo's Center for Tomorrow. It is one of only a few leadership programs nationally specifically for women in higher education. This effort represents the commitment of the Consortium to collaboratively elevate women to leadership positions among its institutions.

The celebration will host Dr. Muriel Howard, former president of Buffalo State College and current president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities as its keynote speaker. Following Dr. Howard's presentation, presidents from participating institutions will present their participants with awards of completion.

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Consortium Provides Presidential Leadership to Say Yes!

The *Say Yes to Education Buffalo* effort is well under way! The Consortium has placed this initiative as its top focus for the next four

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[Inside Higher Education](#)

Inside Higher Ed is the online source for news, opinion and jobs for all of higher education.

[Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

One of higher education's most trusted resources for current information on the sector.

[Association of Consortium Leadership \(ACL\)](#)

ACL is a national association that provides a forum for higher education professionals involved in cooperative programs.

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years and has aligned its ***P-16 Educational Leadership*** initiative with its outcomes. Say Yes has invited three presidents to sit on its Steering Committee:

- Jack Quinn, ECC, 2-Year Institutions
- Aaron Podolefsky, Buffalo State College, 4-Year Public Institutions
- Rich Jurasek, Medaille College, 2 & 4-Year Private Institutions

The Consortium representatives will provide leadership to the initiative and maintain an open flow of communication between Say Yes and the Consortium.

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Faculty Development Group Hosts Business Community and Selects New Officers

The ***Faculty Development Group*** hosted Tom Fentner, Senior Vice President of Health Now and Charles Bartel of Moog, Inc. to discuss the business perspective on WNY college graduates. The presenters discussed perceived skills gaps and what they felt would benefit college students. In addition to providing an overview, both invitees answered questions and welcomed opportunities to work with faculty as they prepare tomorrow's workforce.

In addition, new members were elected to the Executive Board.

- Mark Hijleh, Houghton College, Chair
- Santo Rizzo, Erie Community College, Vice Chair
- Charles Ernst, Hilbert College, Secretary
- Jane Swanson, Alfred State, E-Board Member
- Karen Taylor, Genesee Community College, E-Board Member

Congratulations to the new members! The Executive Board is finalizing the strategic plan and organizing the next faculty development event which will focus on addressing the issues raised by the business community.

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UB Partners with WNY Service Learning Coalition on \$9.8 Million NSF Grant

A coalition of WNY partners has received a five year \$9.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation to expand the ***Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Partnership (ISEP)***. Supported with resources totaling more than \$10,000,000, this promising program aims to transform how science is taught in the Buffalo Public Schools.

In addition to core partners, the University at Buffalo, Buffalo State College, ***Buffalo Public Schools***, and the ***Buffalo Museum of Science***, the initiative also partners with the ***WNY Service Learning Coalition***. Finally, ***Karen King***, the Project Manager of the initiative, is actively involved in the Consortium's ***P-16 Educational Leadership Initiative***.

About Us & Content Submission Policy:

Consortium Connections is an electronic newsletter that is emailed 6 times annually, every other month, starting August 2011. Deadlines for submission of content will be the 15th of August, October, December, February, April, and June (or, if the 15th falls on a weekend, the business day prior). Content submitted will be edited and may utilize links to web sites for additional information. Good quality photos in jpg format are also welcome for possible publication. Please limit the article to 150 words.

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P-16 Begins Strategic Planning Process

In what can be defined as an innovative and bold move long overdue, WNY educational leaders including but not limited to K-12 superintendents, curriculum developers, teachers, college presidents, chief academic officers, deans, chairs, professors, Erie I BOCES, the Board of Regents (Chancellor Emeritus Robert Bennett), and Consortium leadership convened to discuss the alignment or lack thereof along the P-16 continuum. The goal is to fix the "leaks" along the P-16 pipeline which is critical to colleges and universities who are looking to increase the number of students ready for college in order to fill a 16% decline in traditional college-age students. Since the original Summit in October of 2012, the **P-16 Steering Committee** has been formed to discuss how to move forward over the next several years. Task forces have been created along three tracks, Common Core Standards in math, science, and ELA; teacher education programs; and P-12 and higher education partnerships. Annual summits will be held to track progress and provide strategic insight and support to the work of the task forces.

The ultimate vision for this multi-year initiative is that we are all in this together and it will take all of our efforts to improve the situation. We are fortunate to have strong representation of K-12 educators who are equally committed to "fixing the leaks" along the P-16 Continuum. Through a spirit of strong collaboration and mutual respect, we all have high expectations for what our work can accomplish for WNY students, families, districts, colleges, universities, employers, and the region as a whole.

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Consortium Partners with Congresswoman Hochul on Internships

Congresswoman Hochul's office hosted an event with higher education representatives on her pending legislation on internship incentives for companies (\$1000 in corporate tax breaks per intern up to \$3000). In addition to this event, her office is planning a similar event for companies. This business event will be held on April 16, 2012, and will host a panel that includes Tom Fentner, Senior Vice President of Health Now who will present the findings from the **Regional Skills Assessment** and Steven Harvey, Executive Director of the Consortium, who will detail the Consortium's response and ongoing efforts to address the concerns raised by the business community. For additional information on student skills gaps click on: **Connecting Higher Education and the Region's Growing Industries.**

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Consortium to Expand Web Site:



[wnycollegeconnection.com](http://www.wnycollegeconnection.com)

www.wnycollegeconnection.com

Over the next few months, the following enhancements will be developed on our web site.

- **You Tube Videos:** One of the top three strategic objectives for the Consortium is to **Attract, Engage, and Retain** students. You Tube videos, submitted by individual campuses, will be used to promote member institutions to prospective students. As we expand our efforts to various regions like Rochester, Syracuse, Northern Pennsylvania, Cleveland, and Canada; these videos will be strategic additions to our promotional efforts on our web site.
- **Expanded Economic Development Portal:** The following items will be added to the Consortium's Economic Development Portal (EDP):
 - Workforce Development Programs
 - Certifications
 - Specialty Programs like Entrepreneurship, Leadership Development, Organizational Development, and Professional Development
 - Economic Development Departments
 - Economic Development Initiatives
 - Technology Transfer
 - Veterans & Military Personnel
 - Incubators
 - Community Liaisons

The EDP should be completed by the end of August 2012. Any suggestions should be directed to **Steve Harvey**.

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WNY School Counselor PR Campaign!

In addition to the promotional enhancements to the web site, we are working on a two phase promotional effort that will include mailings, creative marketing strategies, territory development (i.e. Rochester, Syracuse, and other locations), and web enhancements. The WNY School Counselor PR Campaign will culminate in a breakfast that will highlight the web tools that promote your institutions to their students and families using www.wnycollegeconnection.com. The goal of the campaign will be to create a replicable model that will be implemented in Rochester, Syracuse, and other regions.

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