

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS 2022–2023

Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner retired at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year. She had been at the helm of Buffalo State for nearly nine years and spent 43 years in higher education leadership. She joined Buffalo State in August 2014 as its ninth president. A student-centered leader, she will be remembered for her efforts in social mobility, social justice, civic engagement, campus infrastructure, and quality of life. Before coming to Buffalo State, Conway-Turner was provost and vice president for academic affairs at both Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and SUNY Geneseo. She has served on numerous boards, committees, and programs nationally, statewide, and locally, including as vice chair of the board of directors of Campus Compact National; vice chair of the executive committee of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities; and member of the Governance Committee of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Buffalo State formally changed its name from Buffalo State College to Buffalo State University, effective January 15, 2023. In addition, the institution's official State Education Department title changed from State University College at Buffalo to SUNY Buffalo State University.

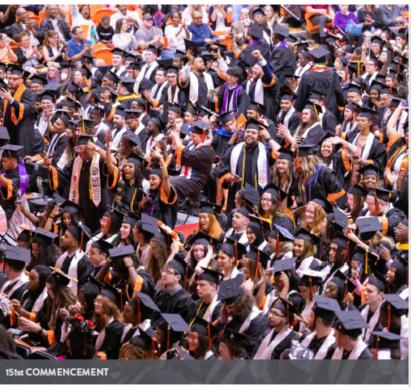
A campus celebration was held on January 31 to usher in the new name. The university designation, endorsed by the Buffalo State Council, followed new guidelines from the New York State Board of Regents for what constitutes a university. Buffalo State joined several other colleges in SUNY, as well as some private colleges, that have adopted the university designation over the past year. Switching from college to university is expected to help elevate recruitment efforts domestically and abroad.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) reaffirmed its accreditation of Buffalo State University in June 2023, following a site visit in Buffalo and five additional visits to Buffalo State's International Graduate Programs for Educators locations in Brazil, Colombia, and Qatar. Buffalo State successfully met MSCHE's seven standards for accreditation and requirements of affiliation, as well as verification of compliance with accreditation-relevant federal regulations. A supplemental information report from Buffalo State is due in September 2024, which will provide additional information related to improving key indicators of student success and periodic assessments of student support programs. Buffalo State's next self-study evaluation will take place in 2030-2031.



BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY'S NINTH PRESIDENT KATHERINE CONWAY-TURNER







Buffalo State University conferred degrees on nearly 1,300 undergraduate and more than 500 graduate students during its 151st Commencement celebration on May 20. Miggie K. Wong, Mikala Highsmith, and Maimouna A. Samba were honored with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. La'Shea Green-Thomas; Orlando J. Hill, recipient of the President's Medal for Outstanding Graduate Student; and Daniel P. May, recipient of the President's Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Student, delivered the student address. Deneen Hernandez, retired forensic examiner with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Mildred Otero, senior vice president of national impact for Leadership for Educational Equity; and Raven Baxter, '14, '16, molecular biologist and educator, delivered the Commencement address. In addition, the President's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Lucy A. Candelario, executive director of the Belle Center; John C. Starkey, '98, principal of Lafayette International School; and Mo Sumbundu, '13, '17, international trade manager for Empire State Development's Global New York Division.

Bonita R. Durand was named interim president of Buffalo State University by the State University of New York Board of Trustees at its June 2023 meeting. SUNY Chancellor John B. King announced the appointment. Durand will serve in the interim role during the ongoing nationwide search to identify a permanent president to replace Katherine Conway-Turner, who retired from Buffalo State at the end of May. Durand will not be a candidate for the permanent position. Durand retired in 2018 after 22 years of service to Buffalo State, where she served as chief of staff and secretary to the Buffalo State College Council. Durand served under five presidents at Buffalo State during her tenure. In addition, she was a graduate faculty member in the university's Higher Education Administration Department, where she taught courses on the history of American higher education and strategic planning and finance in higher education.

An active member of the Western New York community, Durand has dedicated her time to numerous organizations across the city and region.

APPOINTMENTS

LeVar Nathaniel Burke was appointed chief of staff in the President's Office. He officially joined the Buffalo State community August 22. Burke most recently served as enrollment manager for strategic initiatives at the City University of New York (CUNY) Medgar Evers College, a position he held since 2016. He has also served as a member of the City of Yonkers Zoning Board of Appeals (2006–2011) and as an adjunct faculty member at Medgar Evers College (2006–2013) and Long Island University (2015-2017). He earned a bachelor of arts in history from Morehouse College (1999), a master of public administration in policy analysis and program evaluation from Baruch College (2006), and a juris doctor from the University at Buffalo School of Law (2003) and is duly licensed to practice in the state of New York. He is currently earning a doctor of education degree in educational leadership, administration, and policy from Fordham University (2023).

Buffalo State hosted Andrea Milner, vice president and dean of academic affairs at Adrian College, for the fall 2022 semester through the prestigious American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program. Milner worked closely with Buffalo State President

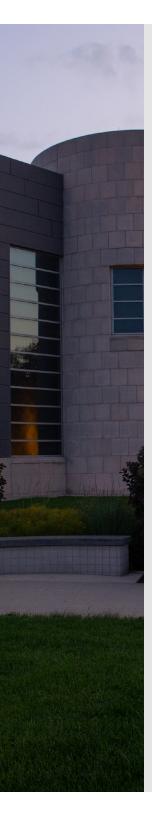
Katherine Conway-Turner and members of her cabinet to explore the unique ways a public comprehensive campus addresses issues of recruitment, retention, and student support in today's higher education environment.

Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing faculty and staff members for senior positions in college and university administration.

The Burchfield Penney Art Center Board of Trustees and Buffalo State University announced in January the appointment of Scott Propeack as the center's executive director. Propeack has been a key member of the Burchfield Penney team for over 25 years, most recently serving as acting director. He has provided visionary leadership to guide the Burchfield Penney's continued evolution within the local arts and cultural sector while raising its national profile as a top-tier multifaceted arts center. Propeack started with the Burchfield Penney as the museum registrar in August 1997 and has held various roles of increasing responsibility in the years since, including collections and exhibitions manager, associate curator, chief curator, and deputy director.







Buffalo State University Associate Provost Amitra A. Wall was appointed as a fellow to the May 14th Memorial Commission, as announced by State University of New York Chancellor John B. King Jr. In this role, Wall will collaborate with the University at Buffalo Regional Institute on the community survey that will inform the commission's creation of a living and lasting memorial in East Buffalo to honor the victims of the racially motivated mass shooting at Tops Market on May 14, 2022. As part of her commission fellowship, Wall, who is also a professor of sociology, will work with students to analyze the data from the community survey. Established in October 2022, the May 14th Memorial Commission consists of 11 community volunteer members and is chaired by Buffalo NAACP President Rev. Mark E. Blue.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul appointed
Patricia Farrell, Kevin Horrigan, and Mo
Sumbundu as the newest members of the
Buffalo State Council. Composed of nine
community representatives and one student,
the Buffalo State Council serves as the primary

oversight and advisory body to the university, its president, and senior officers. Patricia A.

Farrell is head of sales for the Western New York division of Wilmington Trust, which is an affiliate of M&T Bank; Kevin Horrigan, '92, is the vice president of public affairs for People Inc., Western New York's largest human services agency; and Mo Sumbundu, '13, '17, is an international trade manager with Empire State Development's (ESD) Global New York division.

Ruth B. Goldman, associate professor of communication, was appointed interim faculty coordinator for the Center for Social Justice at Buffalo State. Goldman assumed the role in June 2023 and will focus her work on integrating social justice learning into the curricula across campus. Following curricular goals articulated in the Center for Social Justice Recommendations Report, Goldman will focus on issues of social justice at each academic level and across academic disciplines. She is an associate professor of media production and coordinator of the women and gender studies interdisciplinary minor.

John R. Torrey, assistant professor of philosophy, was elected to the Board of Ethics for the City of Buffalo in September 2022. He is the only academic on the board as well as the only member who has conducted academic research on ethics. In 2020, Torrey served on a panel formed by Mayor Brown to study and recommend police reforms in response to that summer's demonstrations against police misconduct. This service opportunity allows Torrey to continue doing public philosophy in the community and to continue the urbanengaged mission of Buffalo State.

FACILITIES

A \$78 million, two-phase renovation of Elms Hall—formerly known as the Classroom Building-will result in a future-ready, worldclass educational facility. The project will provide modern classrooms and labs to meet the teaching and learning needs of students and academic departments. Phase 1 construction began in March and includes demolition and abatement. Phase 2 will include site and interior modifications, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems. Elms Hall will house the departments of Anthropology, Business, Creative Studies, Criminal Justice, Economics and Finance, Geography and Planning, History and Social Studies Education, Political Science and Public Administration, Psychology, and Sociology; and the Dean of the School of Art and Sciences Office. The project is slated for completion in 2025.

ACCOLADES

Buffalo State alumnae, faculty, and staff members were recognized in Buffalo Business First's 2022 Power 200 Women list countdown, showcasing its picks for Western New York's most prominent female leaders. The list spotlights those whose talents and influence fuel economic, social, and cultural growth in the region. Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner ranked eighth on the list. Also recognized were Linda Dobmeier, '71, chair of the Buffalo State College Council; Susan McCartney, director of the Buffalo State Small Business Development Center; Tracy A. Sawicki, '84, Buffalo State College Foundation board member and chair of the Foundation Development Committee; and SUNY Trustee Eunice Lewin, whose long-standing ties to Buffalo State include the 2008 President's Distinguished Service Award for her chairmanship of the foundation galas. The list also included an impressive number of Buffalo State alumnae: Lavonne Ansari, '91; Connie Brown, '78; Sheila Brown, '83; Patricia Clabeaux, '72; Debra Colley, '79; Catherine Collins, '75; Anne Constantino, '80; Gayle Perry Denning, '88; Patricia Farrell, '89; Darby Fishkin, '94; Mary Jo Hunt, '78; Alice Jacobs, '16; Erin Johnson, '99; Denise Jones, '88; Sheila Kee, '73; Brenda McDuffie, '74; Brandye Merriweather, '04; Jennifer Parker, '93; Shana Stegner, '14; and Jacqueline Taylor, '94.







Buffalo State was ranked 27th out of 350 four-year colleges and universities in the Northeast region by Washington Monthly magazine's Best Bang for the Buck, which recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that offer the most valuable and economically friendly degree programs. The list is divided into five regional categories. Buffalo State was the highest-ranked college in Western New York and in the State University of New York (SUNY) system. Buffalo State also performed well in Washington Monthly's 2022 Master's University Rankings, placing in the 33rd spot out of 603 institutions.

Buffalo State placed highly in the social mobility category and as a top public college and a top regional university in the U.S. News & World Report 2023 Best Colleges rankings. Buffalo State tied for 34th place for social mobility and 40th place among top public colleges in the North, and ranked 113th in a tie among regional universities out of more than 181 institutions. The social mobility category measures how well schools graduate students who received federal Pell Grants—typically from households earning less than \$50,000 annually.

The Buffalo State Athletics Hall of Fame inducted eight new members on September 23. Track and field national champion Jazmin Dunham, '16, joined fellow All-Americans Jazlyn Porter (track and field, '16), Cory Cox (track and field, '16), Rich Pete (football, track and field, '16), and Kendyl Clarkson (lacrosse, '12) as part of Buffalo State's first hall of fame class to enshrine five All-Americans at once. Perennial all-conference selections Kyrstin Lekki (softball, '12) and Kelsey Bashore (volleyball, '14), along with dual-sport standout Barb Kiliszek (soccer, basketball, '12), completed one of the most distinguished classes in recent memory.

Buffalo State was officially recognized for its efforts in voter registration campaigns and named to Washington Monthly's 2022 Best Colleges for Student Voting. To qualify for the list, colleges and universities had to submit 2020 and 2022 plans of action to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, as well as provide a documented interest in expanding voter registration on campus. The list was ranked by actual student voter registration rates.

Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner and eight Buffalo State alumni were included in *Buffalo Business First*'s Class of 2022 Power 100 Business Leaders of Color. Alumni included Lavonne Ansari, '91; Brenda McDuffie, '74; Brandye Merriweather, '04; Darian Bryan, '17; Latricia Davis, '02; Jennifer Parker, '93; Sheila Rayam, '90; and Esmeralda Sierra, '19.

Three alumni were named to Business First's 40 under 40 list for 2022. The list, which recognizes young, high-achieving professionals at work and within their communities, included JulieAnne Barber, '08; Dalphne Bell, '09; and Rachelyn Noworyta, '17.

Six of Buffalo State's most accomplished alumni were recognized for their contributions to the campus and community. The 2022 Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Dianne Baumert-Moyik, '87; Michael Bonitatibus, '79; Rose Thevenin, '90; and Rick Kennedy, '77; while Julia Bottoms, '12, '17, and LaStarsha McGarity, '19, received the 2022 Young

Alumnus Achievement Award. Two ceremonies were held for the honorees in the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center, one on September 23, during Homecoming and Family Weekend, and another on October 28. Kennedy, who received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2020 (during the coronavirus pandemic), was recognized retroactively.

The SUNY Police Chiefs Association recognized Amanda Mesi, an officer with the Buffalo State University Police Department, for her life-saving actions by presenting her with the 2022 Life Saving Award on November 15. She was one of 13 officers from six SUNY campuses to receive the award. On a cold night last January, Mesi heard a countywide alert about a diabetic man who was late arriving home from work. Mesi immediately began circling the area and spotted the vehicle matching the description from the alert. She contacted emergency paramedics, who arrived within minutes. Paramedics on the scene reported that the man most likely would have died within the hour if Mesi had not found him when she did because his blood sugar level had plummeted on a night when the temperature was in the single digits.











The Burchfield Penney Art Center at Buffalo State University received the Award of Distinction in the "Engaging Communities" category at the 2023 Museum Association of New York Annual Conference in recognition of the exhibition LEROI: Living in Color and supporting programming. The career retrospective showcased paintings of internationally acclaimed Buffalo artist LeRoi Johnson, as well as the work of over 40 local youth artists from the Buffalo Center for Art and Technology, Squeaky Wheel Film and Media Art Center, Just Buffalo Literary Center, and the Buffalo Public Schools. The exhibition and supporting programming addressed important conversations around themes like identity, social justice, and community.

Buffalo State was named a Voter-Friendly
Campus for 2023–2024, one of 258 campuses in 38 states and the District of Columbia selected by Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), and the only institution designated in the Buffalo area. This is the second time that Buffalo State has received this important designation. The voter-friendly initiative recognizes institutions that have implemented practices that encourage their students to register and vote in the 2022 elections and in coming years.

Jacob J. Fleming Sr., a media production major at Buffalo State, was named a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities working to advance the public purposes of higher education. Fleming is one of 154 student civic leaders who make up the organization's 2023–2024 cohort, which comprises students from 38 states, Washington, D.C., and Mexico. The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes students who stand out for their commitment to creating positive change in communities locally and around the world.

Student-athletes Nat Sawyer and Shevaughn Allen secured First Team All-America honors at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field National Championships in March. Notably, Sawyer shattered the school and SUNYAC records in the 400-meter dash, while Allen demonstrated his skills in the triple jump. Their extraordinary performances continued with both athletes claiming national titles at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in May, marking a historic moment for Buffalo State University with a male and female athlete clinching national titles in the same outdoor season.

ACADEMICS

Buffalo State became the only college or university in North America to offer a dual graduate degree in conservation. Starting in fall 2022, students entering the three-year program in the Patricia H. and Richard E. Garman Art Conservation Department will earn an M.A. in the conservation of art and cultural heritage and an M.S. in conservation science and imaging. Previously, students earned an M.A. in art conservation with a certificate of advanced study.

The M.A. portion of the dual degree is focused on conservation treatment theory, practice, and ethics. Meanwhile, the M.S. is focused on the sciences—chemistry, physics, and materials science—and imaging—optics, industrial photography, and computational photography.

A team made up of three Buffalo State fashion and textile technology majors advanced to the semifinals in the 2023 National Retail Federation (NRF) Foundation Student Challenge, which wrapped up at the end of 2022. The students—Madison Bryant-Wagstaff, Emelia Seiferth, and Angelina Deleon—were charged with developing a growth and launch strategy for Public Lands, a new outdoor specialty retail concept for Dick's Sporting Goods. During two rounds of a judged competition, the students created a pitch presentation, submitted a 90-second pitch video, and participated in a virtual interview with the Dick's team.

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

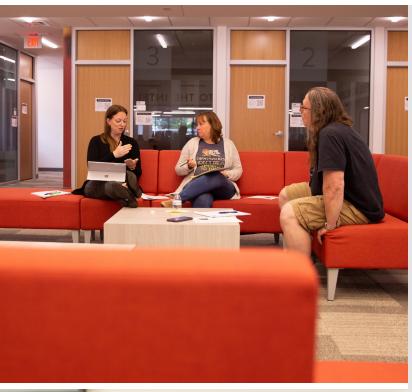
Buffalo State hosted the Western New York Writing Project (WNYWP) Summer Institute
July 11–15 in E. H. Butler Library. Designed
for teachers, the weeklong institute featured
interactive workshops, lesson-planning sessions,
and writing prompts to help participants work
on their own writing. The program was open to
teachers across the region who teach any subject
at any grade level. This was the second year
Buffalo State has hosted the summer institute
through the WNYWP, a branch of the National
Writing Project housed in Buffalo State's Center
for English Teaching.

Buffalo State's Career and Professional
Education Center and GEICO's regional office
in Buffalo launched a new internship program
intended for students who just completed their
freshman or sophomore year. The full-time paid
internships, which ran from June 5 through
July 29, paired students with claims adjusters
to work behind the scenes both remotely and in
person. Students also participated in a mentoring
program with other GEICO interns. Along with
paying the students a competitive wage, GEICO
provided \$10,000 to cover stipends for housing
and transportation for students who needed them.











Buffalo State graphic and wood/furniture design students contributed to the locally based Healthy Corner Store Initiative that promotes healthful eating in underserved communities. They helped transform one participating corner store, Lucky's Food Market on Buffalo's East Side, into a "healthy hub." Six students in the furniture design courses DES 351 and DES 451 created a prototype and built two custom tables and four chairs with built-in literature racks. They were installed at Lucky's in May. Meanwhile, 17 students in computer graphics course DES 377 developed and installed a wall mural promoting the importance of eating nutritious food.

A mentorship program pairing Buffalo State students with M&T Bank professionals continued for a third academic year and expanded to include paid internships in summer 2023. For the 2022–2023 academic year, M&T selected 24 mentees from across academic disciplines. The mentees met virtually with their mentors one-on-one at least once a month to discuss how to create strong résumés and bone up on interviewing and networking skills.

Forty-two area K-12 educators who teach science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (STEM) content were selected to receive a four-year fellowship to participate in the New York State Master Teacher Program, Western Region, which is centered at SUNY Buffalo State. The New York State Master Teacher Program is an active professional network of more than 1,600 outstanding public school K-12 STEM educators who serve as mentors for early career STEM teachers and teacher candidates.

The Buffalo State Theater Department formed a partnership with the Association of Regional Theater Artists, a trade association made up of almost 400 Western New York industry professionals. Twelve Buffalo State students participated in the yearlong Western New York Theater Arts Professional Mentorship Project. Throughout the academic year, students met with their mentors at least once a month, attended theatrical performances, and participated in group mentorship sessions.

Buffalo State, in a partnership with National Grid, offered a free technology camp for local high school students that took place July 10–21 on campus. The second annual Future Innovators in Tech and Engineering camp welcomed 50 rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors from the city of Buffalo and first-ring suburbs and included electrical engineering technology and creative and critical thinking lessons. Students also toured a National Grid facility and visited the Niagara Power Vista.

Buffalo State welcomed more than 55 middle and high school students from several public and private schools throughout Western New York on June 3 for the GenCyber Student Project Showcase and Competition. Sponsored by the Computer Information Systems (CIS) Department and funded by the National Securit Agency, the showcase was free to students. Ten CIS faculty members and five CIS students oversaw the event, which took place in the Technology Building and highlighted students' posters and projects on different aspects of cybersecurity.

EVENTS

Douglas Hoston Jr., a PRODiG visiting scholar with the Social and Psychological Foundations of Education and Adult Education Department and a former completion coach at Buffalo State, created the "Inaugural Urban STEM Symposium," which was held August 4 in the Campbell Student Union Assembly Hall. The overarching goal of the workshop was to help incoming freshmen from underrepresented backgrounds with an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) find—and maintain—the confidence to enter the STEM disciplines and earn a degree.

Award-winning actor, director, and educator
Stephen McKinley Henderson was named the
2022 recipient of the Hal D. Payne Educational
Opportunity Lifetime Service Award during
Buffalo State's annual Upward Bound banquet
on August 11. Henderson received the award
and presented the keynote address at the event
celebrating local high school students who
completed the six-week Upward Bound
summer program at Buffalo State.













Buffalo State hosted the GenCyber Teacher
Camp August 1–5 in the Technology Building.
Supported by a GenCyber grant with funding
from the National Security Agency and the
National Science Foundation, the free camp
informed teachers about key cybersecurity
issues. Ten Buffalo State faculty members and a
handful of outside experts presented hour-long
sessions on topics such as cryptography, cyberbullying, child safety on the Internet, cybersecurity
enforcement, and careers in cybersecurity.
Nineteen middle school and high school math,
science, and computer science teachers from
Western New York, along with other cities in
New York and New Jersey, attended the program.

Federal Reserve Bank of New York President
John C. Williams shared his thoughts on the
regional and national economy, as well as
monetary policy, on October 7, at 10:00 a.m.
in the Burchfield Penney Art Center's Tower
Auditorium. Williams's talk, which was free and
open to the public, was part of a two-day visit
to Buffalo to meet with leaders in government,
business, education, and community development.

AFP 2022: Healing through Stories, a free festival full of interactive workshops, performances, and more, was held October 12–14 on campus. Celebrating its 14th year, the Anne Frank Project festival featured faculty and staff members, students, alumni, and visiting artists who led participants in kinesthetic workshops that reflected the theme and the spirit of Holocaust victim Anne Frank. Best-selling author Nic Stone served as keynote speaker and festival presenter. Stone was the first in the Donn Youngstrom featured speaker series. Youngstrom, who retired from the Theater Department in 2018, gave the college a \$1 million endowed gift in 2021 to help fund AFP.

Best-selling author, dietetic thought leader, and community organizer Jessica Wilson discussed the impacts of racism and misogyny on body image and wellness at Buffalo State on February 9 in the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center. Sponsored by the university's Equity and Campus Diversity Office, Wilson's presentation was free and open to the public.

The Fashion and Textile Technology Department's 16th annual Runway fashion show was held April 22 in the Sports Arena. With a theme of "Provoking Protopias," the show focused on the idea of promoting progress on both sustainability and equality fronts while provoking the status quo. The show highlighted the collections of 11 senior designers along with many other student designers in the program. Since its debut in 2008, Runway has given students a professional venue to showcase their talents. Students work behind the scenes on marketing, creative direction, logistics, and stylistic choices, including accessories, music, and ambiance to go with the pieces.

Buffalo State hosted "Pursuit of tRuth: May 14 Remembrance, Recovery, and Prevention of Hate," an educational conference to counter the Tops Market shooting in Buffalo. Nationally and internationally recognized educators, attorneys, political leaders, and journalists participated in the conference on April 21– 22, which was free and open to the public. The conference was founded by Garnell and Raymond Whitfield, sons of Ruth E. Whitfield, who was one of the 10 people shot to death in the racially motivated shooting.

The center for English Teaching at Buffalo State University and the Buffalo State English Department presented the seventh annual Youth Voices Conference on May 4. The Youth Voices Conference, now in its seventh year, seeks to reclaim space for the voices of youth and their teachers, and to reposition classrooms as learning spaces of meaning, purpose, and power in the Buffalo Niagara and Rochester regions. Student presentations included short documentaries, spoken word poetry, podcasts, and TED Talks based on creative classroom projects.









GRANTS AND GIVING

Arjun K. Pathak, assistant professor of physics, was awarded a \$249,934 grant from the National Science Foundation to further study quantum materials and develop an understanding of their properties. Quantum materials are vital to the development of emerging technologies like quantum computing, clean energy, and breakthroughs in the defense industry. The grant will allow Pathak to synthesize and examine the properties of quantum materials while providing Buffalo State students, especially underrepresented minorities, women, and first-generation college students, with hands-on research opportunities.

Buffalo State's Career and Professional Education Center launched a new award—the Bengal Internship Award—to provide stipends of up to \$2,000 for undergraduate or graduate students pursuing summer internships. The stipend covers living expenses such as housing, food, technology, and transportation for students working in an internship that is either unpaid or underpaid. Fundraising for the award began on the university's Day of Giving in March, raising \$3,500. M&T Bank, a longtime partner of Buffalo State, then provided an additional \$30,000.

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Buffalo State offered its Bengal Entrepreneurship Program (formerly known as the Student INC.ubator) for budding entrepreneurs on campus thanks to a two-year \$57,000 grant from Bank of America. The funding allowed the SBDC to hire a program coordinator to oversee the program and help students pay for travel expenses to a statewide competition. The program provided a unique opportunity for students to meet weekly and work on business proposals to submit to the annual New York State Business Plan Competition. The intercollegiate entrepreneurship competition, sponsored by Upstate Capital, featured regional competitions in early April and semifinals and finals later in the month.

Buffalo State University hosted Bengala 2023—the 26th annual Foundation Scholarship Gala—on April 29, in the Campbell Student Union.

Proceeds from the formal event support Buffalo State students through emergency financial assistance and academic scholarships. Since the signature fundraiser began in 1998, the gala has raised roughly \$6 million for student support.

This year's event featured a theme of celebration—celebrating our students, the career of retiring President Conway-Turner, and Buffalo State's new status as a university.

Donn Youngstrom, associate professor emeritus of theater, continued his philanthropy with a legacy gift to the university's Anne Frank Project (AFP). Upon his passing, the foundation will receive a bequest of at least \$500,000, depending on the markets. In 2021, Youngstrom presented AFP with a \$1 million endowed gift. Youngstrom's gifts are funding three key initiatives: the AFP social justice festival, AFP in the Schools, and the new campus AFP Global Learning Lab. The Lab, which formally opened in the spring semester on the fourth floor of

the Campbell Student Union, provides a way for Buffalo State students, as well as area high school students, to engage with students living in partner countries including Rwanda and Kenya.

Brian Higgins, '85, U.S. representative for New York's 26th congressional district, announced a \$750,000 federal grant for Buffalo State University's Small Business Development Center during a press conference on May 2 at the campus's LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center. The funding is specifically designated to help existing small businesses develop websites and facilitate opportunities to grow online sales.

The Buffalo State University Foundation has established a 5.14 Memorial Scholarship designed to cover the cost of books and other educational supplies for Buffalo State students who hail from Buffalo's 14208 zip code. This zip code is where 10 Black people were shot to death by an avowed white supremacist at Tops Market on May 14, 2022. The scholarships will be available to both first-time undergraduate and graduate students from the 14208 zip code starting in fall 2023.







RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION 2023–2024

Buffalo State University has several major recommendations for action during the 2023–2024 academic year: 1.) Current Strategic Priorities; 2.) Financial Sustainability Plan; and 3.) Presidential Search.

CURRENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Buffalo State has identified three current strategic priorities: enrollment, non-tuition revenue, and campus climate and culture.

In terms of enrollment, the university's comprehensive initiatives, spanning from recruitment through graduation, seem to have arrested the decline in enrollment over recent years and put Buffalo State on an upward trend in a few key areas. While Buffalo State has generally not experienced difficulty in attracting students, the ongoing challenge has been to retain students and guide them to graduation. Preliminary data for fall 2023 indicates a steady enrollment level, with an increase in first-time students and surge in new transfers. In addition, residence hall occupancy has experienced growth. These encouraging trends in retention and residence hall occupancy are vital in offsetting the structural deficit and demonstrating positive financial stability for Buffalo State. The university's unwavering dedication to student success, both academically and personally, is the driving force behind these positive trends. Buffalo State will continue its efforts to make this university a nurturing, supportive, and exciting place to study and grow.

Buffalo State has identified many opportunities to increase non-tuition revenue through collaborations with partner agencies, organizations, and outside entities. The university has the capacity to increase the use of its facilities to meet the needs of partners while offering novel and steady sources of revenue for the campus. In addition, all campus venues are migrating to the use of technology, 25 Live, for space and event management. This will result in better communication about space availability for large rentals. New payment methods are being developed to improve customer service, maximize payment receipts, and enable better financial tracking to inform decision making.

Campus climate and culture is arguably the most critical component to the university's future success. Buffalo State must prioritize fostering an atmosphere of transparency, respect, and inclusivity for employees, students, and all who associate with the university. Buffalo State must strive to enhance collaboration between colleagues who are subject matter experts in their fields and can support the university's mission. Buffalo State's future success heavily relies on its shared governance structure. Enhancing coordination between the Buffalo State Council, College Senate, and President's Cabinet and senior staff is paramount. A survey will be administered in spring 2024 to test and affirm the university's success with enriching its campus climate and culture.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Buffalo State University is committed to addressing its structural deficit and ensuring financial sustainability. The structural deficit, calculated by comparing the total number of institution employees to the current number of enrolled students, has been a significant challenge. However, we are confident in our strategic plan to resolve this issue over the next year and reduce it by the 2027–2028 academic year, as required by SUNY.

Action Plan: Reframed Strategic Priorities

In light of our evolving circumstances and recent insights, we are reframing our strategic priorities to better serve our mission and community. Firstly, central to our actions is the *enhancement of morale and our campus climate*. We firmly believe that a positive and inclusive environment is the bedrock upon which academic and institutional excellence is built. Secondly, we need to tackle the structural deficit that challenges our financial sustainability. This adaptive change requires that we pursue these two strategic priorities in tandem, ensuring that humanity remains at the center of our decision-making process. These steps are crucial in addressing our structural deficit, allowing us to continue offering a high-quality educational experience while ensuring our financial sustainability:

 Increasing Enrollment: We will focus on recruitment and conversion, boosting our persistence, retention, and graduation rates, and increasing residence hall occupancy. By enhancing our student body, we not only improve our financial footing but also enrich our campus life and academic discourse.

- Diversifying Revenue Sources: We will expand our revenue sources beyond tuition. This will require a multifaceted approach, ranging from leveraging our Auxiliary Services, pursuing private and governmental research grants, intensifying fundraising efforts, and advocating for increased support from government entities.
- Budget Reduction Strategy: We will implement a prudent budget reduction strategy. This will involve stabilizing our workforce, improving our service delivery, effecting structural changes where needed, and optimizing our academic offerings:

Workforce Stabilization: We aim to strategically align our workforce with the needs of our institution. To ensure financial sustainability and preserve fiscal responsibility, the interim president has implemented a rolling 12 month hiring freeze, effective November 14, 2023. It is anticipated that this will significantly reduce the structural deficit by the 2027–2028 academic year but will not eliminate it in its entirety. The three optimization strategies below are intended to close the gap, as well as mitigate how drastic the workforce stabilization strategy needs to be:

Service Delivery Optimization: We will conduct a thorough analysis of our service delivery mechanisms to identify potential areas for cost reduction. This may include considering the alteration of the

current service delivery schedule, outsourcing certain services, or sharing services with other SUNY campuses.

Non-Academic Structural Optimization: To achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency, we will benchmark our non-academic organizational structure against our peer institutions. Identifying areas of redundancy and inefficiency will allow us to restructure our operations and redeploy staff from personnel-heavy divisions to those in need.

Academic Optimization: We will undertake a comprehensive review of our academic offerings to ensure they meet the evolving needs of higher education and the labor market, as well as the demands of the current and potential students.

By improving morale and campus climate, and addressing our structural deficit through increased enrollment, diversified revenue, and budget reduction, we are setting the stage for a more robust and resilient Buffalo State University. We are confident in our ability to navigate these waters and emerge stronger. The challenges we face today will only serve to forge a more prosperous future for Buffalo State University.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

With the September 2022 announcement of the retirement of President Katherine Conway-Turner, Buffalo State began the process of finding a successor to become the 10th president of the institution. This presidential search is led by the Buffalo State

University Presidential Search Committee and its chair, Buffalo State Council Chair Linda Dobmeier, '71. As outlined by SUNY guidelines, the Presidential Search Committee includes four members of the Buffalo State Council, six members of the full-time teaching faculty, one student, one professional or support staff member, one Buffalo State Foundation Board representative, one alumni representative, one academic dean, one SUNY designee, one chancellor's liaison (non-voting), and one campus staff liaison (non-voting). Additional members have been appointed to the committee, which consist of an additional council member (total of five), one community representative, and one business leader. The structure and makeup of the Presidential Search Committee ensures that all areas of the university have a voice in the process. Storbeck Search, a search consultant, was retained to engage in an active national recruitment effort to build an impressive and diverse pool of candidates for the position and the Presidential Search Committee is charged with reviewing all applications. Ultimately, the legal authority to appoint the president or chief administrative officer of a state-operated SUNY campus rests with the State University of New York Board of Trustees. University councils have the responsibility of recommending a candidate or candidates to the Board of Trustees. To assist university councils in their work, SUNY has adopted a policy with procedures for the search process and nomination of candidates. It is anticipated that the next president of Buffalo State will be identified during the 2023-2024 academic year.

UNIVERSITY FACTS STUDENT PROFILE—FALL 2022

Status	Undergraduate	Graduate
Full time	4,861	386
Part time	603	595
Total	5,464	981

Age	Undergraduate	Graduate
Under 25	4,685	371
25 and over	779	610
Total	5,464	981

Ethnicity	Undergraduate	Graduate
American Indian/Alas	kan 25	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	354	35
Black (non-Hispanic)	1,635	123
Hispanic	666	57
White (non-Hispanic)	2,522	718
Pacific Islanders	3	1
Other/Unknown	9	2
International	35	15
Multi-race	215	29
Total	5,464	981

Geographic Origin	Undergraduate	Graduate
Erie County	2,884	609
Niagara County	357	106
Other NY State	2,062	166
Outside NY State	126	85
International	31	10
Canada	4	5
Other/Unknown	_	_
Total	5,464	981

Gender	Undergraduate	Graduate
Female	3,083	725
Male	2,381	256
Total	5,464	981

Residence Halls Occupancy	Undergraduate	Graduate
	1,673	10

Financial Aid for Undergraduates 2022–202	23
Number of students receiving any financial air	d: 4,288
Percent of students receiving any financial aid	d: 88.2%
Average award per student:	\$13,536
Average loan commitment after graduation:	\$24,529

Costs by Student Category 2022–2023		
Tuition	Fees	Total
Undergraduate full-tin	me, state resident \$1,416.00	\$8,486.00
Undergraduate full-tin	me, out-of-state resid	lent \$18,396.00
Graduate, state reside	ent \$847.00	\$12,157.00
Graduate, out-of-stat \$23,100.00	e resident \$847.00	\$23,947.00

Number of Degrees Awarded July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023			
Bachelor of Arts	428		
Bachelor of Music	7		
Bachelor of Science	904		
Bachelor of Fine Arts	48		
Bachelor of Science in Education	19		
Postbaccalaureate Certificate	18		
Bachelor Total	1,424		
Master of Arts	35		
Master of Arts Master of Science	35 260		
Master of Science	260		
Master of Science Master of Science in Education	260 249		
Master of Science Master of Science in Education Master of Public Administration	260 249 11		
Master of Science Master of Science in Education Master of Public Administration Master in Music	260 249 11 11		



FACULTY AND STAFF PROFILE—FALL 2022

Status (All Faculty and S	taff)	
Full time	1,116	
Part time	376	
Total	1,492	
Number of faculty with te	enure:	210
Percent of full-time facul	ty with doctoral degrees:	78.1%
Percent of full-time facul	ty with terminal degrees:	83.7%

Ethnicity	Full Time	Part Time
American Indian/Alaskan	9	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	51	9
Black (non-Hispanic)	146	22
Hispanic	44	13
White (non-Hispanic)	835	324
International	16	4
Multiple Races	15	4
Pacific Islanders	_	0
Total	1,116	376

Number of Full-Time Faculty at Each Rank		
Professor	80	
Associate	132	
Assistant	61	
Lecturer/Instructor/Other	46	
Total	319	

Full-Time Faculty: Ethnicity by Gender	Total	Male	Female
Asian/Pacific Islander	38	22	16
Black (non-Hispanic)	21	14	7
Hispanic	19	8	11
White (non-Hispanic)	225	100	125
American Indian	2	2	_
International	10	6	4
Multiple Races	4	_	4
Total	319	152	167

ALL UNIVERSITY BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022, TO JUNE 30, 2023

REVENUE	AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Tuition and Fees	\$25,974,816	11.83%
Federal Operating Grants and Contracts	\$2,954,458	1.35%
Sales and Services of Auxiliary Enterprises	\$16,637,892	7.57%
State Appropriations	\$127,452,904	58.03%
Federal Non-operating Grants	\$16,240,175	7.39%
State Non-operating Grants	\$11,353,369	5.17%
All Other Operating Grants and Contracts	\$13,871,135	6.32%
Gifts, Investment Income, and Other	\$5,160,255	2.35%
Total Revenue	\$219,645,004	100%

EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Instruction	\$86,819,827	38.43%
Research	\$5,024,821	2.22%
Public Services	\$8,783,839	3.89%
Academic Support	\$22,475,956	9.95%
Student Services	\$14,530,423	6.43%
Institutional Support	\$48,847,083	21.62%
Other Expenses	\$251,843	0.11%
Scholarships	\$7,899,160	3.50%
Auxiliary Services	\$31,308,022	13.86%
Total Expenditures	\$225,940,974	100%





FOUNDATION REPORT

Consolidated Foundation Balance Sheet	June 30, 2023
Cash and Investments	\$87,381,649
Investment in Split Interest Agreements	\$1,996,855
Other Current Assets	\$1,850,565
Long-Term Assets	\$10,452,996
Total Assets	\$101,682,065
Liabilities	\$2,911,024
Net Assets	\$98,771,041
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$101,682,065

Consolidated Foundation Statement of Activities	June 30, 2023	
Revenue		
Private Support	\$4,174,154	
Fees, Events, Other Revenue	\$759,705	
Net Investment Income	\$3,132,735	
Donated Services and Supplies	\$1,287,275	
Total Revenue and Support	\$9,353,869	
Expenses	\$7,021,726	
Change in Value Split Interest Agreements	(\$126,149)	
Total Expenses, Losses, Other	\$6,895,577	
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$2,458,292	

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