

# 2023 2024

## BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT





## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS 2023–2024

Buffalo State University's new undergraduate class for fall 2023 included 2,045 students, a 19.5 percent increase from the previous year and the largest incoming class of the last three years. Buffalo State had the largest incoming freshman class in SUNY's university colleges sector (formerly known as SUNY's comprehensive colleges) for the fifth time in six years. New freshman enrollment was 1,486, an increase of 16.5 percent from a year ago and the first year-over-year increase in that category since 2017. It was also the first time since 2017 there was a year-over-year increase in transfer students entering Buffalo State, with 559 transfers being a 28.5 percent increase from the previous year.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul appointed Gary Siddall, '12, president and CEO of the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve, as the newest member of the Buffalo State Council in October. Siddall earned a bachelor of arts in psychology from Buffalo State University and a master of arts in organizational leadership from Medaille University. The Buffalo State Council serves as the primary oversight and advisory body to the university, its president, and senior officers. Members of the council are appointed by the governor and serve a seven-year term, while the student representative is elected for a one-year term.

Buffalo State and its Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium hosted a series of major events leading up to its signature Eclipse Fest on April 8, to celebrate the Great North American Eclipse. The university welcomed feature speaker Fred Espenak, known as "Mr. Eclipse," on February 15 in the Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall and held the Eclipse & Sips Beer-Tasting Event on March 8, in the Science and Mathematics Complex atrium. The university's Speech-Language Pathology Department hosted a special eclipse-themed event focusing on American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf culture on April 4. The public then experienced the total solar eclipse on April 8 from a special viewing area at an excitement-filled event at Coyer Field. About 1,300 people—including SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr and attendees from as far as California, Tennessee, and North Carolina—enjoyed activities and demonstrations guided by Buffalo State experts, food trucks, entertainment, and souvenirs for this once-in-a-lifetime event. Buffalo State was featured in the New York Times and the Buffalo News as the only major university in the State University of New York system to hold a significant public event for the 2024 total solar eclipse.



ECLIPSE FEST



ECLIPSE FEST





152nd COMMENCEMENT



152nd COMMENCEMENT

**SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. announced in March that Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D., will continue to lead Buffalo State through the 2025–2026 academic year.** Interim President Durand agreed to lead the campus until a new president is appointed. Chancellor King said: “We are grateful for Dr. Durand’s wisdom and service. As interim president, Dr. Durand has provided seamless leadership in enhancing student success and moving the campus toward financial sustainability. I am grateful that Dr. Durand will continue implementing that work, which will also allow time for a full search for the next campus president.”

**The State University of New York Board of Trustees announced the additional allocation of \$114 million in direct state tax support across state-operated SUNY campuses from the budget passed in April by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul.** That includes an additional allocation of \$2.8 million for Buffalo State University, a 10.7 percent increase from 2023–2024. The overall SUNY funding marks a historic investment, with the combined 2023–2024 and 2024–2025

budgets representing the largest two-year infusion in at least five decades, with an increase of \$277 million in direct state tax support allocated to SUNY. Buffalo State University receives a combined funding increase of \$8.1 million across 2023–2024 and 2024–2025.

**Nearly 1,700 undergraduate and graduate students crossed the stage during Buffalo State University’s 152nd annual Commencement celebration on May 18.** Degree candidates were honored at three ceremonies: School of the Professions (morning), School of Arts and Sciences (afternoon); and School of Education and Individualized and Multidisciplinary Studies (evening). Graduates Uttam Lakshmi Mounika Goruganthu, Seth G. Rueger, and Catherine J. Sarich were honored with the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence in recognition of their academic and extracurricular achievements, leadership, and service. Shenese K. Patterson, recipient of the President’s Medal for Outstanding Graduate Student, delivered the student address at the morning ceremony; Zoe E. Goñez, recipient of the President’s Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Student, delivered the student

address at the afternoon ceremony; and Leslie M. Lawrence delivered the student address at the evening ceremony. Each ceremony's keynote speaker also received the Buffalo State Distinguished Alumnus Award: Anne Constantino, '80, CEO of Telos Consulting Group LLC (morning); Sheila Rayam, '90, executive editor of the Buffalo News (afternoon); Darren J. Brown-Hall, '96, '98, superintendent of the Williamsville Central School District (evening). In addition, the President's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Charlene M. Fontana, SSJ, '04, retired assistant to the director of student life at Buffalo State University (morning); Cindy Abbott Letro, community leader, volunteer, philanthropist, and former chair of the Burchfield Penney Art Center (afternoon); and Sharon M. Belton-Cottman, president of the Buffalo Board of Education (evening).

### **Buffalo State Announces Framework for Financial Sustainability**

Buffalo State University announced its Framework for Financial Sustainability plan to capitalize on the university's academic strengths, manage costs, and meet evolving student needs, positioning the campus as a premier university for Western New York and the State University of New York system. In an address to the campus community and stakeholders on May 23, Buffalo State Interim President Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D., outlined a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to eliminating the university's \$16.5 million structural deficit and maximizing the historic level of investment in the SUNY system by Governor Kathy Hochul's administration over the past two years. By coupling this plan to close the structural budget deficit with an infusion of historic levels of State funding, Buffalo State is putting itself in position for long-term financial and institutional health. Last year, SUNY provided Buffalo State with a \$5.3 million increase in Direct State Tax Support, followed by another \$2.8 million increase this year. That adds up to a combined total two-year increase in State support of nearly 40 percent.



152nd COMMENCEMENT





THE COLOR PURPLE



THE COLOR PURPLE

## ACCOLADES

### Alumnae Grace Business First's 'Power 200 Women' List

Numerous Buffalo State University alumnae were recognized on *Buffalo Business First's* 2023 Power 200 Women list, which showcases Western New York's most prominent female leaders. Featured on this year's list were Linda Dobmeier, '71, chair of the Buffalo State Council; Patricia Farrell, Buffalo State Council member; Tracy Sawicki, '84, Buffalo State Foundation board member; and Eunice Lewin, SUNY trustee. Also recognized were New York Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, '74, '02; and Lockport Mayor Michelle Roman, '00, who ranked second and 11th, respectively, on the list of Power 200 Women—Power Politicians. Other Buffalo State alumnae on the list: LaVonne Ansari, '91; Patricia Clabeaux, '72; Debra Colley, '79; Catherine Collins, '75; Carolyne DeFranco, '88; Gayle Perry Denning, '88; Darby Fishkin, '94; Mary Jo Hunt, '78; Alice Jacobs, '16; Denise Jones, '88; Sheila Kee, '73; Allanna Kelly-Beaton, '14; Elizabeth Mauro, '92; Brenda McDuffie, '74; Brandye Merriweather, '04; Kathleen Neville, '74; Jennifer Parker, '93; Sheila Rayam, '90; and Shana Stegner, '14.

### Buffalo State Alumni, Faculty Win Big at Arties

Buffalo State figured prominently at the 33rd annual Artie Awards for local theater on June 10. Initiated in 1991, the Artie Awards are held each year to celebrate Western New York's theater community. Gabriella McKinley, '21, won Outstanding Leading Actress in a Musical for her performance in *The Color Purple*, which was co-produced by Second Generation Theatre, Shea's 710 Theatre, and Ujima Company. Sarah Norat-Phillips, '78, was awarded Outstanding Direction of a Musical, and the production was honored with one of the evening's most significant awards: Outstanding Production of a Musical. McKinley was supported by a team studied with Buffalo State faculty and fellow alumni: in addition to McKinley and Norat-Phillips, the production team included Naila Ansari, assistant professor of theater and Africana studies (choreographer; nominated for Outstanding Choreography of a Musical); Emma Connaire, '23 (assistant lighting designer); Amber Greer, '21 (co-props coordinator); Curtis Lovell (in the role of Sofia; nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical); Karen Saxon, '03, lecturer of music (music director); and Marcus Watson, associate professor and coordinator of Africana studies (dialect coach).



## GRANTS AND GIVING

### Buffalo State Honors Youngstrom with Dedication of Global Learning Lab

Drew Kahn, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and founding director of Buffalo State's Anne Frank Project, helped lead the dedication of the newly renamed Donn Youngstrom Global Learning Lab at Buffalo State University on October 5. Youngstrom is an associate professor emeritus of theater who taught at Buffalo State for nearly 25 years. The global connection lab allows an enhanced collaboration and dialogue between Buffalo State students and Rwanda's Urukundo Learning Center. The technology in the lab is just one result of over \$2 million in gifts from Youngstrom to Buffalo State's Anne Frank Project over the past two years. In addition to the fourth-floor lab in the Campbell Student Union, two similar labs have been outfitted in East Africa. Buffalo State has operated a study-abroad program for students in Rwanda most summers since 2010, led by Kahn under the aegis of the Anne Frank Project. In total, 154 Buffalo State students have traveled to East Africa as part of the program.

### Buffalo State Hosts Annual Golf Tournament

Ninety-six golfers gathered at the Orchard Park Country Club on September 26 to support the Buffalo State College Foundation's 26th annual Golf and Tennis Scholarship Classic. This year's tournament included brunch, a round of golf, and on-course snacks and beverages, as well as dinner and awards. All proceeds generated from the event went directly toward supporting Buffalo State's GRIT Scholarship Program. Culinary students from Buffalo State's Hospitality and Tourism Department served as volunteers for the event.

### Alumnus Provides Telescopes to Area Students

One hundred high-tech telescopes were provided to middle and high school students, including more than 30 for Western New York students, as part of an initiative from the Science Haven, an organization created by Buffalo State alumna Raven Baxter, '14, '17, who is known as Dr. Raven the Science Maven. The 100 telescopes were distributed between Buffalo, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. As part of the application process, area students wrote essays about their interest in astronomy. Local students were presented with the telescopes at the Science and



DEDICATION OF GLOBAL LEARNING LAB



ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT





ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES

Mathematics Complex before receiving training from the Buffalo Astronomical Association and learning about the night sky at the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium. The event on February 19 concluded with students using the telescopes outside for the first time at nightfall. The program is part of the Science Haven's Stellar Dreams initiative.

#### **Buffalo State and M&T Bank Donate 50K Solar Eclipse Glasses**

Buffalo State University and M&T Bank, education sponsor of Buffalo State's eclipse programming, provided 50,000 pairs of solar eclipse glasses, as well as eclipse-related educational materials, to Buffalo Public Schools students, teachers, and staff. Western New York was in the path of totality for the total solar eclipse on April 8. Buffalo Public Schools prepared students through a variety of interactive learning opportunities, including essay writing, art making, and trips to Buffalo State's Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium. Representatives from Buffalo State and M&T Bank met with students at Public School 17 Early Childhood Center on March 22 to distribute the glasses.

#### **Bank of America Grants Boosts Student Entrepreneurs**

Buffalo State University student entrepreneurs participated in the annual New York Business Plan Competition (NYBPC), an intercollegiate *Shark Tank*-like competition where students pitch innovative business ideas to judges for monetary prizes, thanks to a two-year, \$57,000 grant from Bank of America. The grant, which covered travel and lodging expenses, also supported the hiring of a program coordinator for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC)'s Bengal Entrepreneurship Program (BEP) in 2023. The SBDC guides students in developing proposals to submit to the competition. The grant also funds an SBDC student internship for a research assistant.



## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

### Interim President Urges Students to Shine in Convocation Address

Buffalo State Interim President Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D., delivered a stirring speech to the incoming Class of 2027 during the university's annual First-Year Convocation on August 25. The auditorium was filled to capacity with students attending the event in the Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall, which was live-streamed to an overflow audience in Ciminelli Recital Hall. Edreys Wajed, '97, an accomplished multidisciplinary educator and artist, delivered an inspiring speech during the program as well. First-Year Convocation is the Buffalo State tradition that officially introduces and welcomes its newest students to the campus academic community.

### Interim President Delivers Rousing Speech at Academic Affairs Kickoff

Buffalo State Interim President Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D., exhorted faculty and academic staff members to support one another and work together to “address enrollment challenges and

transform Buffalo State into a beacon and destination for eager minds” during the university's annual Academic Affairs Kickoff meeting on August 21 in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall. The event is held each year to welcome back faculty and staff in the Academic Affairs division and to share information in preparation for the new academic year.

### Buffalo State Engages Community at Social Justice Festival

The annual Social Justice Festival at Buffalo State University engaged diverse communities in teachable ways to respond rather than react. The theme directly reflected the core of the Anne Frank Project's mission: Ideas + Action = Justice. The two-day celebration took place October 4–5 and featured stories from multiple disciplines that build community, manage conflict, and explore identity. The festival is an academic ritual at Buffalo State that includes workshops, performances, and art exhibits that challenge, teach, and explore diverse social and personal justice topics.



FIRST-YEAR CONVOCATION



FIRST-YEAR CONVOCATION





THE ANNE FRANK PROJECT



THE ANNE FRANK PROJECT

### Mathematics Professor Receives Fulbright Scholarship

Buffalo State mathematics professor Hongliang “Jimmy” Xu was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Award, a competitive fellowship that provides an opportunity to teach and conduct research abroad. Xu, who will spend five months teaching at Fulbright University Vietnam during the spring 2025 semester, was inspired to apply for a Fulbright given his experience with international recruitment and desire to enhance Buffalo State University. Xu’s project centers on conferring the benefits of applied learning in the United States on the traditional classroom environment in Vietnam, a move away from the theoretical learning common in Asian countries.

### Buffalo State Researchers Headline AERA Conference

Buffalo State University played an integral role in the 2024 annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 11–14.

The AERA meeting is the largest annual gathering of educational research scholars, ranging from graduate students to senior researchers, and

serves as a showcase for innovative research. Buffalo State was represented in a number of the prestigious presidential sessions, including presentations by Jevon D. Hunter, Woods-Beals Endowed Chair in Urban Education; Douglas L. Houston Jr., assistant professor of social and psychological foundations of education; and Gliset C. Morales, associate professor of exceptional education.

### ‘Sopranos’ Actor Visits Buffalo State Poetry Class

Liz Mariani, lecturer in Buffalo State’s College Writing Program, facilitated a memorable learning experience for students when she invited acclaimed actor Michael Imperioli to speak to 30 students enrolled in ENG 151: Introduction to Poetry in April. Imperioli is an Emmy Award-winning actor known for the roles of Christopher Moltisanti in the HBO crime drama *The Sopranos*, Spider in Martin Scorsese’s *Goodfellas*, and Dominic Di Grasso in the second season of HBO Max’s *The White Lotus*. He is also a writer, singer, and meditation instructor and maintains an active social media presence. During his visit, Imperioli shared a poem he’d written based on a personal experience.



## STUDENT SUCCESS

### Students Debut Pioneering 360-Degree Film

Ouroborus, an immersive heist film made by nine Buffalo State University students in the television and film arts (TFA) program, is the first 360-degree narrative film with a full surround-sound mix made for the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium. It premiered December 1. The 30-minute film follows two siblings who find a watch that allows them to travel through time to rob an art gallery in order to save their house. The film features four professional actors and the talents of multiple Buffalo State students who served as crew members and extras in the unique production.

### Fontana Involves Students in Filming of 'The Wrong Road'

Emmy Award-winning writer/producer Tom Fontana, '73, came to Buffalo on March 16 to film *The Wrong Road* with a production crew composed largely of students in the television and film arts program (TFA) at Buffalo State University. *The Wrong Road* is the largest production of a Fontana script filmed in Western New York. The 50-person production crew, led by TFA students in the spring 2024 course TFA 480: Advanced Directing/Producing I, included Buffalo State sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Buffalo State alumni also joined the project, as did students from other campus departments such as Communication, Theater, and Business.

The 30-minute film, which premiered at Buffalo's North Park Theatre on May 12, is about a young man, driving across the state, who gets lost and finds himself at a mansion, where two strangers seem to know all the details of his complex life. The film will be submitted to festival competitions.

### Theater Department Premieres New Play by Local Playwright

The Buffalo State Theater Department presented *Teach*, a new play that delves into the way the lines can blur in student-teacher dynamics, on stage in the Flexible Theatre February 19–25. Written by Donna Hoke, the play centers on a principal, a teacher at his school, and a questionable relationship with a student. Hoke is an award-winning local playwright and screenwriter whose work has been seen in 48 states and on five continents. This was the first fully staged production of the play, which received an enthusiastic response when it was read at the department's Second Thursdays Reading Series. Students overwhelmingly voted to stage the production for the spring 2024 season at Buffalo State.



FILMING OF 'THE WRONG ROAD'



THEATER DEPARTMENT PREMIERES NEW PLAY





BUFFALO STATE AEROBATICS AND TUMBLING TEAM



STUDENTS PUBLISH 'ELJ: THE ECLIPSE EDITION'

### Buffalo State Athletics Debuts Two New Teams

Buffalo State University debuted two new athletic teams during the spring 2024 semester. In January, the inaugural Buffalo State men's volleyball team traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, to compete in its first game action at the Baldwin Wallace Tournament. In February, the inaugural Buffalo State acrobatics and tumbling team competed in its first-ever acrobatics and tumbling meet for a Division III school in New York State by hosting Trine in a dual meet at the Sports Arena.

### Students Participate in Capitol Action Day

The Buffalo State University Social Work Department sent 11 students to Albany on February 13 to participate in Capitol Action Day, an annual advocacy event held by the New York chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. During the event, social workers came together to discuss issues and promote policies. This year, attendees pressed for the Social Work Workforce Act, restoring Medicaid Home Care access, and increasing the counselor/social worker/psychologist-to-student ratio in schools.

The help of generous donors made this year's Capitol Action Day a reality for the 11 social work students. Donations helped cover associated transportation and meal costs that may have otherwise precluded participation. Donations for these opportunities were made through campaigns like Buffalo State Gives.

### Students Publish 'ELJ: The Eclipse Edition'

*Elm Leaves Journal*, Buffalo State's literary annual, released its *Eclipse Edition*, a collection of writing to commemorate the once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse, with a public launch on April 12 in the Campbell Student Union. The event included food, drinks, and readings and presentations from featured writer T. L. Sherwood, students, and alumni. *ELJ* has been in existence since 1948, always administered, edited, and produced by Buffalo State students. In 2013, after a brief hiatus, the publication was reimaged as an international literary journal. *The Eclipse Edition* was largely funded by the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium and the Geosciences Department, with supplemental coverage from Buffalo State alumna and benefactor Ilene Fleischmann, '73.



### Students Volunteer During ‘Alternative Spring Break’

Ten individuals from Buffalo State University, including students, faculty, and staff members, spent three days of their spring recess volunteering with the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program March 26–28. Coordinated by Lisa Kragbé, assistant director of the Civic and Community Engagement Office, and co-sponsored by the Chi Alpha student organization, this year’s ASB focused on addressing two pressing social justice issues: child wellness, through a collaboration with Boys on the Right Track; and housing access, through a collaboration with Habitat for Humanity Buffalo.

### Grad Student is First TR Inaugural Site Fellow

Jacob Riedel, a graduate student in Buffalo State University’s social studies education program, became the first recipient of the Hudders Family Theodore Roosevelt (TR) Inaugural National Historic Site Masters Fellowship in spring 2023. The fellowship, established in 2019 through a donation from the Hudders family, is open to

students in the history and social studies education programs who have completed 9 credit hours of graduate study at Buffalo State with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5.

### Buffalo State Hosts Annual Runway Fashion Show

Runway, Buffalo State University’s Fashion and Textile Technology Department’s annual student-produced fashion show, presented by New Era Cap, returned on April 20 with the theme “True Delusion,” which explored the layers and facets of mental health. Since its debut in 2008, Runway has provided students with a professional venue to showcase their talents. In addition to the onstage display of student designs, students are responsible for marketing, creative direction, logistics, and stylistic choices for the event. This year’s show featured 11 senior designers and 110 models, along with many other student designers and participants. Runway 2024 sponsors include the mental health organizations Better Mynd, Crisis Services, and Evergreen Health.



ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

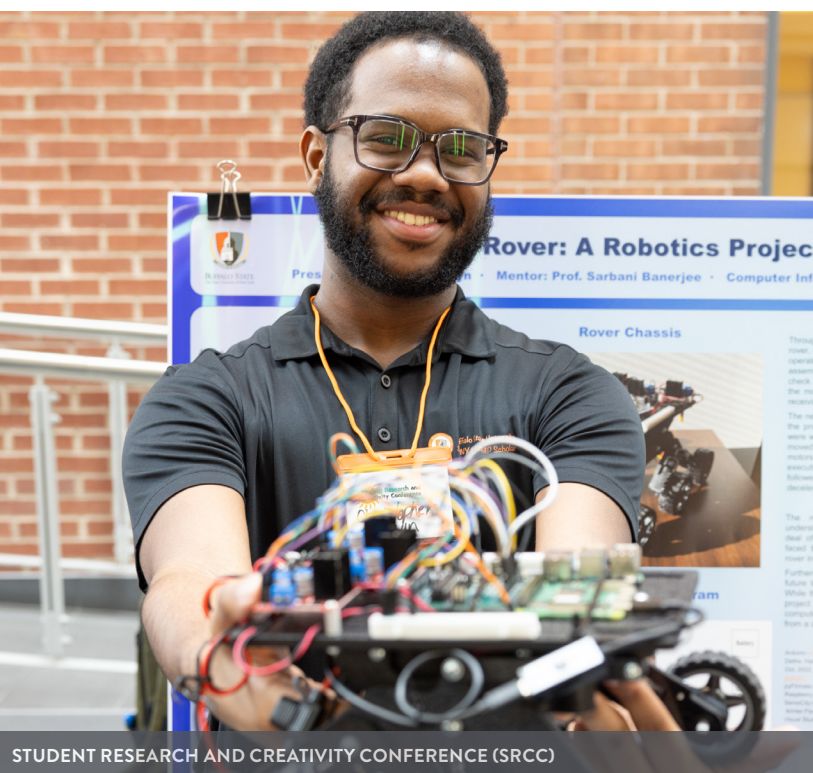


FASHION AND TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT





STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY CONFERENCE (SRCC)



STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY CONFERENCE (SRCC)

## Buffalo State Hosts SRCC 2024

From a collection of oil paintings to a rover controlled by artificial intelligence, engaging research projects by Buffalo State University students have been presented at conferences across the country. The campus community learned about these projects—and many others—at Buffalo State’s 26th annual Student Research and Creativity Conference (SRCC), presented by the Undergraduate Research Office (UR), on May 3 in the Science and Mathematics Complex. Nearly 250 students from all disciplines participated in this year’s SRCC, making it one of the largest in the history of the event.

## Students Place in Global Merchandising Competition

A team of four Buffalo State University Fashion and Textile Technology students—Jaden Brice, Jason Dolegowski, Jacob Frothingham, and Lauren VanDusen—earned third place in the 2024 American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists Concept 2 Consumer Student Merchandising Competition, an annual contest with participants from all over the world. The competition is open to both United States–based and international undergraduate and graduate students. This year’s theme, “Vibrant Vacation–Colorful Resort Wear,” tasked students with merchandising a bright, sustainable travel/resort-wear line incorporating recycled materials, sustainable manufacturing, and color quality. The students conducted research on color trends and target demographic; worked on branding, designing, and merchandising; created marketing, promotional, and retailing strategies; and developed a budget and timeline for the line launch within a digital poster format.



## GRANTS AND GIVING

### Inclusive Preschool Classroom Opens in Partnership with Summit Center

Buffalo State University and the Summit Center—a leading provider of behavioral health and autism services—collaborated to create an inclusive full-day preschool classroom for 16 students that opened on the Buffalo State campus in January. The integrated classroom serves children with and without disabilities in the same space, addressing a shortage of inclusive preschool programs in Erie County and the city of Buffalo. The classroom is staffed by one general education teacher, one special education teacher, and two special education classroom assistants, who are supervised by professionals at Summit. Buffalo State students play an important role in the inclusive preschool classroom, which is one of a kind on a college campus in the region. Additionally, the education and services provided by the Child Care Center are enhanced by contributions from the university's academic programs, including early childhood education, speech-language pathology, psychology, music education, and art education, as well as Buffalo State's unique educational facilities such as the Burchfield Penney Art Center, Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium, and greenhouse.

### Sophia's Legacy Focuses on Conflict Education

Sophia's Legacy is a new component of the Anne Frank Project at Buffalo State University. Sophia's Legacy, named to honor Sophia Veffer, a Holocaust survivor, is a professional development program designed to give educators the training and tools to bring lessons about genocide and conflict education into Western New York classrooms. In August, work began with a pilot cohort of six Buffalo Public Schools teachers at no cost to the district. The first two years of Sophia's Legacy have been funded by the Vogt Family Foundation. Sophia's Legacy came together with the Anne Frank Project in partnership with Buffalo State's School of Education, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Rwanda, a longtime partner of the Anne Frank Project.

### Buffalo State, FeedMore WNY Celebrate RISE Culinary Graduates

Buffalo State University and FeedMore WNY celebrated the first cohort of FeedMore WNY's Culinary and Food Manufacturing Program, the newest course in its workforce development initiative, Ready Individuals for Success and Employment (RISE), with a graduation ceremony on June 10. Buffalo State and FeedMore WNY partnered to hold classes—and the graduation ceremony—in the dietetics kitchen in Caudell

Hall. The 14-week course (including a two-week internship) offers adults hands-on experience in a commercial kitchen. Students earn certification in ServSafe food handling, administered by the National Restaurant Association, as well as Certified Fundamentals Cook certification from the American Culinary Federation. Additionally, RISE, which is geared toward individuals with high barriers to employment, allows participants to develop skills like résumé writing, financial literacy, and interview preparation. Wraparound services such as transportation assistance, child care, daily meals, and food pantry access are also provided.



RISE CULINARY GRADUATES





SPACE FAIR AND TRADE SHOW



ALUMNI CELEBRATE HOMECOMING

## GRANTS AND GIVING

### Alumni Gather for 50-Plus Club Reunion Luncheon

Nearly 100 loyal Buffalo State alumni returned to campus to reunite and reminisce during the 50-Plus Club Alumni Reunion Luncheon, held in the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center on July 16. The annual event honors Buffalo State alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. Barbara (Breeding) Blackburn, '64, '67, received the 2023 Buffalo State Senior Service Award during the event for her contributions and dedication to the community.

### Space Fair Showcases Buffalo State Facilities, Programs

Buffalo State hosted a Space Fair and Trade Show on August 23 at the Science and Mathematics Complex. This free, family-friendly event geared toward K-12 students featured a variety of fun educational activities, allowed students to explore internships and other employment opportunities, and highlighted Western New York companies' contributions to the recent successful NASA Artemis I mission. An accompanying NASA Artemis I Celebration in Rockwell Hall and the Bulger Communication Center honored employees from Western New York companies Moog, Eaton, Taber Industries, and Taylor Devices, each of which contributes to NASA's Artemis missions.

### Bradstreet, Fontana Return to Campus

Golden Globe-winning writer/producer Kyle Bradstreet, '02, '04, and Emmy Award-winning writer/producer Tom Fontana, '73, returned to campus for a pair of events. Bradstreet (*Mr. Robot*, *Borgia: Faith & Fear*) screened the pilot of his recently released Marvel show, *Secret Invasion*, before discussing the writing process on September 25, in Warren Enters Theater in Upton Hall. Fontana (*Oz*, *Homicide: Life on the Street*) participated in a panel discussion with longtime casting executive Rosalie Joseph (*The Godfather Part III*, *The Blue Lagoon*) on September 28, in Ciminelli Recital Hall in Rockwell Hall.

### Alumni Celebrate Homecoming

A tailgate and football game on September 30 concluded a week of Buffalo State Homecoming programming, with a theme of "All Roads Lead Home." This was the first year Buffalo State hosted a Homecoming tailgate since before the pandemic. Other Homecoming events included free showings at the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium, a women's volleyball game, and a women's soccer game.



### Davidson Headlines at Performing Arts Center

The Buffalo State Performing Arts Center announced a last-minute addition to its fall schedule with actor and comedian Pete Davidson live on stage October 24 and 25. The show was presented by Live Nation. Davidson is the creator, executive producer, writer, and star of Peacock’s critically acclaimed comedy *Bupkis*. He was a cast member on NBC’s *Saturday Night Live* from 2014 to 2022, where his singular “Weekend Update” features and original music videos garnered millions of views.

### Buffalo State Hosts Music is Art Festival

Buffalo’s annual Music is Art Festival was held on the Buffalo State and Buffalo AKG campuses on September 21. This return to Buffalo’s Elmwood Arts area highlights Music is Art’s connection to the city’s rich artistic traditions. Since its founding by Goo Goo Dolls bassist and Buffalo native Robby Takac in 2003, the Music is Art Festival has served as a showcase of Western New York talent and a celebration of artistic community. This year’s festival featured a diverse mix of music, art installations, live performances, and interactive experiences.

### Buffalo State Hosts NASA Day

As part of its activities in Niagara Falls and Buffalo leading up to the total solar eclipse on April 8, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was at Buffalo State University, which has been designated a NASA Subject Matter Expert site, for NASA Day on April 7. This free public event included information and activities related to NASA’s science and engineering endeavors. Hands-on family activities were available for the duration of the event, and special additional presentations took place throughout the morning and afternoon.

### Buffalo State Hosts Reunion Celebration for Class of 2020

In May, Buffalo State provided an opportunity for 2020 alumni to reunite, celebrate, and enjoy memorable moments they couldn’t share four years ago. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Buffalo State University maintained its commitment to the safety of students, faculty, and staff, which meant many difficult decisions—like the postponement of 2020 Commencement ceremonies and the move to hold them virtually the following September. This year, alumni from the Class of 2020 had the chance to reunite and celebrate their accomplishments on May 24–25, through multiple events, including school-specific receptions that gave 2020 alumni the chance to reconnect with deans, chairs, and professors.



ALUMNI CELEBRATE HOMECOMING







## UNIVERSITY FACTS STUDENT PROFILE—FALL 2023

Status	Undergraduate	Graduate
Full time	4,909	319
Part time	598	579
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>898</b>

Age	Undergraduate	Graduate
Under 25	4,789	370
25 and over	718	528
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>898</b>

Ethnicity	Undergraduate	Graduate
American Indian or Alaskan Native	32	2
Asian	375	39
Black or African American	1,645	108
Hispanic	681	49
International	26	13
Multiracial	238	38
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	1
Race and Ethnicity Unknown	5	1
White	2,503	647
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>898</b>

Geographic Origin	Undergraduate	Graduate
Erie County	2,921	565
Niagara County	348	93
Other NY State	2,017	154
Outside NY State	195	73
International	20	11
Canada	6	2
Other/Unknown	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>898</b>

Gender	Undergraduate	Graduate
Female	3,128	667
Male	2,379	231
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>898</b>

Residence Halls Occupancy	Undergraduate	Graduate
	1,898	8

Financial Aid for Undergraduates 2023–2024		
Number of students receiving any financial aid:	4,076	
Percent of students receiving any financial aid:	85 %	
Average award per student:	\$13,886	

Costs by Student Category 2023–2024		
Tuition	Fees	Total
Undergraduate full-time, state resident \$7,070	\$1,416	\$8,486
Undergraduate full-time, out-of-state resident \$17,490	\$1,416	\$18,906
Graduate, state resident \$11,310	\$847	\$12,157
Graduate, out-of-state resident \$23,790	\$847	\$24,664

Number of Degrees Awarded July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024	
Bachelor of Arts	294
Bachelor of Music	7
Bachelor of Science	714
Bachelor of Fine Arts	54
Bachelor of Science in Education	22
Postbaccalaureate Certificate	6
<b>Bachelor Total</b>	<b>1,097</b>
Master of Arts	19
Master of Science	207
Master of Science in Education	203
Master of Public Administration	6
Master in Music	10
Certificate of Advanced Study	34
<b>Postgraduate Total</b>	<b>479</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>1,576</b>





# FACULTY AND STAFF PROFILE—FALL 2023

Status (All Faculty and Staff)	
Full time	1,076
Part time	349
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,416</b>
Number of full-time faculty	208
Percent of full-time faculty with doctoral degrees	76.8%
Percent of full-time faculty with terminal degrees	84%

Ethnicity	Full Time	Part Time
American Indian/Alaskan	9	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	53	9
Black (non-Hispanic)	139	22
Hispanic	38	10
White (non-Hispanic)	800	303
International	15	2
Multiple Races	13	3
Pacific Islanders	—	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>349</b>

Number of Full-Time Faculty at Each Rank	
Professor	90
Associate	125
Assistant	54
Lecturer/Instructors/Other	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>311</b>

Full-Time Faculty: Ethnicity by Gender	Total	Male	Female
Asian/Pacific Islander	38	21	17
Black (non-Hispanic)	18	12	6
Hispanic	15	7	8
White (non-Hispanic)	224	93	131
American Indian	2	2	—
International	11	7	4
Multiple Races	3	—	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>169</b>



## FOUNDATION REPORT

### Consolidated Balance Sheets

June 30, 2024

#### ASSETS

##### CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	\$4,238,758
Assets restricted by debt agreements (Note 2)	\$3,689,927
Accounts and other receivables, net (Note 3)	\$1,172,071
Contributions receivable (Note 4)	\$469,095
Prepaid expenses	\$186,994
Funds held in trust for others	\$1,111,523

**\$10,868,368**

Contributions receivable, net (Note 4)	\$10,236,337
Investments (Note 5)	\$99,104,219
Split-interest agreements (Note 6)	\$1,895,895
Building and equipment, net (Note 7)	\$29,051,477

**\$151,156,296**

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

##### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8)	\$1,483,720
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$406,917
Refundable advances	\$576,932
Due to related parties	\$247,629
Funds held in trust for others	\$1,111,523

**\$3,826,721**

Due to related parties	\$477,655
Long-term debt (Note 8)	\$32,948,251
Liability under split-interest agreements	\$386,371

##### NET ASSETS (NOTE 9):

Without donor restrictions	\$24,201,692
With donor restrictions	\$89,315,606

**\$113,517,298**

**\$151,156,296**



Consolidated Statements of Activities	June 30, 2024
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**REVENUES:**

Contributions - public support	\$4,637,395
Contributions – in-kind (Note 11)	1,383,275
Student housing, net of rental waivers	5,608,985
Fees, events and other	758,133
Investment activity	8,771,369
Change in value of split-interest agreements	176,110
Net assets released from restrictions	
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>21,335,267</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Program	8,286,675
Management and general	1,608,874
Development	625,874
Real estate	44,931
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>10,566,354</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>10,768,913</b>

NET ASSETS – BEGINNING	102,748,385
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NET ASSETS – ENDING	\$113,517,298
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## ALL UNIVERSITY BUDGET

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023, TO JUNE 30, 2024

REVENUE	AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Tuition and Fees	\$24,411,528	10.65%
Federal Operating Grants and Contracts	\$4,884,264	2.13%
Sales and Services of Auxiliary Enterprises	\$17,160,040	7.49%
State Appropriations	\$134,820,637	58.82%
Federal Non-operating Grants	\$18,323,039	7.99%
State Non-operating Grants	\$10,411,428	4.54%
All Other Operating Grants and Contracts	\$13,685,087	5.97%
Gifts, Investment Income, and Other	\$5,521,996	2.41%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$229,218,019</b>	<b>100%</b>

EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Instruction	\$91,427,926	38.37%
Research	\$5,094,340	2.14%
Public Services	\$9,329,462	3.92%
Academic Support	\$23,766,331	9.97%
Student Services	\$17,998,984	7.55%
Institutional Support	\$52,723,435	22.13%
Other Expenses	\$292,737	0.12%
Scholarships	\$10,974,286	4.61%
Auxiliary Services	\$26,667,428	11.19%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$238,274,929</b>	<b>100%</b>



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