

# The High Road Runs Through the City

## Service Learning & Action Research Fellowships for ILR Students Summer 2015 Projects in Buffalo NY

### If YOU are interested in . . .

grassroots economic development. . .urban revitalization. . .small business development. . .  
. . .poverty alleviation. . .the green economy. . .civic engagement. . .labor-community alliances. . .  
public economic policy. . .quality job creation. . .creative culture and the new economy. . .

### Then consider this summer experience. . . working in Buffalo's living laboratory. . .



This fellowship program has opportunities for **twenty ILR students** to participate as a group in research, active learning and service in community-based economic development in Buffalo. Undergoing dynamic reinvention, **Buffalo is home to a rich array of creative organizations** tackling rust belt challenges. Students learn about and contribute to vibrant local innovation by working with nonprofit organizations, government officials, businesses, and labor advocates focused on revitalizing the metro Buffalo economy.

**The program:** The summer fellows in Buffalo work through June and July, earning \$4000 for eight 35-hour weeks. Students work on a specific project with their partner organizations 7.5 hours per day, Monday through Thursday. Every Friday the students as a group are immersed in the city life of Buffalo, with neighborhood walking tours, field trips and cultural experiences; meetings with guest experts and civic leaders; and sharing their weekly journals, project experiences and research. The full application will be available for students in December.

**Each student is placed with a partner organization of the Partnership for the Public Good**, a civic organization made up of over 170 affiliated partners promoting more equitable and sustainable economic development in Greater Buffalo. Students gain hands-on experiences working with organizations in the vital nonprofit sector of the economy where job creation, neighborhood revitalization, and the greening of the economy are everyday reality.



### Summer 2015 Placements:

- Arts Services Initiative of WNY
- Buffalo CarShare
- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
- Center for Employment Opportunities
- Clean Air Coalition of WNY
- Coalition for Economic Justice
- CWA and Health Sciences Charter School
- Fargo House/Assembly House 150
- Grassroots Gardens
- Jericho Road Ministries Community Health Center
- John R. Oishei Foundation
- Learning Disabilities Association
- Massachusetts Avenue Project
- Open Buffalo
- Partnership for the Public Good
- PUSH Buffalo
- United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
- WNYCOSH Worker Center
- WNY Law Center
- Young Audiences of WNY

See [www.ilr.cornell.edu/highroad/](http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/highroad/)

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Cornell University  
ILR School



## 2015 High Road Projects: Brief Descriptions

### Arts Services Initiative of WNY

95 Perry Street, Suite 402  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.846.8270

[www.asiwny.org](http://www.asiwny.org)



Arts Services Initiative of Western New York (ASI) fosters capacity building, collaboration, and advocacy efforts for the region's cultural sector, an integral part of the community. ASI works closely with the Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance and the New York Council on the Arts, and provides a broad range of services to the arts community.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in the arts and their role in economic and community vitality:** The mission of ASI is to promote the cultural sector's vital role in economic development. The summer fellow will work on the allocation of new funding streams for Western New York nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. This project provides opportunities to work with economic development agencies and fosters creation of new types of arts programming. The fellow will also support Arts Access, a program that opens the door to arts and culture for all Western New Yorkers by connecting them to free and low cost cultural opportunities in their communities. SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) recipients of Erie and Niagara Counties have the chance to see, experience, and participate in live shows and events by receiving free tickets through the Arts Access Pass.

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### Buffalo CarShare

14 Allen Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.898.0580

[www.buffalocarshare.org](http://www.buffalocarshare.org)



Buffalo CarShare provides affordable, community-based car sharing services that benefit the environment through practical innovation in urban transportation, providing fuel-efficient vehicles from ten hub locations throughout the city. A nonprofit organization, Buffalo CarShare has a growing and diverse membership and has partnered with the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus to expand transportation options especially for low-income residents.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student who wants to explore urban transportation and practice business development:** This summer fellowship combines a classic small-business experience of operations and marketing of carshare services with a research project on its benefits for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The fellow will assist in improving the organization's volunteer driver program and Senior and Persons with Disabilities (SPD) Rider Program through research, connections with other non-profits/agencies, and increasing ridership with our wheelchair accessible van. The fellow will also promote carsharing and its numerous benefits at public events throughout the summer.

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### Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper

721 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.852.7483

[www.bnriverkeeper.org](http://www.bnriverkeeper.org)



Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper is a community-based organization dedicated to protecting the quality and quantity of water while connecting people to water. Riverkeeper promotes standards of

excellence in watershed planning and design by implementing a vision of urban waterfront redevelopment that integrates natural systems into the architecture of economic revitalization.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in promoting economic revitalization through the restoration of the health and integrity of natural resources:** Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper is developing several “blue economy” initiatives that can guide high standards of excellence on the development of Buffalo’s waterfront. The Niagara River Greenway is a world class corridor of places, parks and landscapes that celebrates and interprets WNY’s unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and heritage resources and provides access to and connections between these important resources while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region. The Niagara River Greenway was meant to be a linear system of parks, trails, and conservation areas linking Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. The summer fellow will develop a comprehensive marketing plan to raise public awareness of the Greenway’s assets and opportunities for public use and enjoyment.

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### Center for Employment Opportunities

170 Franklin Street- Suite 701  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
716.842.6320 Ext. 501  
[www.ceoworks.org](http://www.ceoworks.org)



For more than 30 years, the Center for Employment Opportunities’ goal has been to provide immediate, comprehensive and effective employment services for men and women returning from incarceration. CEO offers comprehensive employment services exclusively for people with criminal records. CEO’s model is based on a highly structured program of life skill education, short-term paid transitional employment, full-time job placement and post-placement services.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for an individual who would like to contribute to re-entry employment for formerly incarcerated people with an interest in innovate workforce development practices:** CEO’s clients face many challenges that drive recidivism among parolees: unemployment, poverty, low self-esteem, drug abuse, lack of education and job training, and others. But the organization has seen immense growth and successful outcomes in recent years. CEO’s primary mission is to assist individuals find employment, which makes CEO a workforce development agency that works directly with one underserved population. The summer fellow will create a workforce development map for CEO and the greater workforce development community. This is incredibly important to the organization’s mission since there are record amounts of funding available in workforce development. This mapping will enable groups to strategize and partner with other agencies in the community for collaborative programming and potential grants.

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### Coalition for Economic Justice

237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.892.5877  
[www.cejbuffalo.org](http://www.cejbuffalo.org)



The Coalition for Economic Justice (CEJ) is an ongoing coalition of labor, faith, community, academic and student activists engaged in dynamic campaigns for living wages, rights at work, accountable economic development, and health care for all. CEJ is the Buffalo affiliate of Jobs with Justice.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student committed to workers’ rights and campaigns against low-wage work:** The Coalition for Economic Justice’s (CEJ) mission is to unite its member labor, faith,

and community organizations and activist with allies and resources to win campaigns that promote economic justice for all through building strong, diverse, sustainable communities. The summer fellow will support two campaigns focusing on low-wage work. One concentrates on the new Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) while the other is a statewide campaign to raise the minimum wage. The student will canvas and conduct outreach to people who have traditionally been marginalized in the Fruit Belt, the neighborhood that the BNMC is being developed in, around creating a community benefits agreement (CBA) there. The student will also do work organizing and doing outreach to low wage workers on the fight for \$15 campaign around forming a union. The student will then create a database in order to capture the information that they have gained during their time out in the field. There is also an opportunity for a research component to this work examining how other municipalities have successfully raised the minimum wage and how locally might be able to effect similar policy change.

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### **CWA and Health Sciences Charter School**

1140 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
716.402.1872

[www.healthsciencescharterschool.org](http://www.healthsciencescharterschool.org)



The Health Sciences Charter School is the only school-to-work charter high school in New York focused on providing traditionally underserved students with real world work experience, state of the art technology and specialized curriculum to prepare them for careers in the health care industry. The school was created by progressive labor leaders representing health care workers and employers in the local health industry.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for someone interested in human resources, public education and the health care sector of the economy:** The Health Sciences Charter School (HSCS) is charged with developing innovative and creative means to educate high school aged youth as they prepare for college and careers. In order to achieve this goal, the HSCS has a goal of creating a work environment that attracts top talent and retains outstanding teachers and staff. HSCS will conduct a staff engagement survey in the fall of 2015 – the fellow assigned to this project will evaluate: a) the survey sent to staff two years prior; b) the follow up that took place (focus groups); c) the evaluation of the results; and d) the continuing communication with the staff. The fellow will then provide recommendations for the 2015 staff engagement process. This project will include quantitative and qualitative work in to evaluate current processes and make recommendations for improvements based on research related to best practices.

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### **Fargo House/Assembly House 150**

287 Fargo Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.906.1434

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

Fargo House/Assembly House 150 are unique cultural enterprises that synthesize art, architecture and civic engagement.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in creative community building techniques driven by arts and cultural organizations:** Fargo House/Assembly House 150 seeks a fellow to assist in building partnerships with community development corporations and private developers. The fellow will support the organizations' efforts to collaborate with various publics in the realization of creative

placemaking projects. The fellow will conduct research on potential partners, explore economic models, meet with local representatives, and identify strategies for engagement. Work output will contribute to the formation of a five year strategic plan. The fellow will also be responsible for planning and organizing an engagement event in order to introduce potential partners and stakeholders.

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### **Grassroots Gardens**

2495 Main Street, Suite 408  
Buffalo, NY 14214

[www.grassrootsgardens.org](http://www.grassrootsgardens.org)



Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo enables community-led efforts to revitalize the city and enhance quality of life through the creation and maintenance of community gardens that beautify blocks, grow healthy food, and strengthen neighborhood spirit.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in urban agriculture, vacant lot reclamation and community development:** Grassroots Gardens works throughout the city of Buffalo to turn vacant lots into thriving community spaces. They provide access to food to communities where that can be difficult. The organization seeks to capture the impact gardens have on the residents who use them, many of which are low income individuals. The summer fellow will analyze the economic benefits of community gardening on both the individual community gardener as well as the neighborhoods around them. For instance, he/she would study how community gardens reduce food costs by capturing a typical budget of a resident living in a food desert and how much they spend on food versus what they can grow in a community garden. This is a critical resource for future planning and development opportunities.

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### **Jericho Road Community Health Center**

184 Barton Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.881.0539

[www.jrm-buffalo.org](http://www.jrm-buffalo.org)



Jericho Road's mission is to provide a culturally sensitive medical home, especially for refugee and low-income community members, facilitating wellness and self-sufficiency by addressing health, education, economic and spiritual barriers.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student interested in providing direct service to the refugee population and developing curriculum focused on self-sufficiency:** JRCHC serves over 12,000 individuals annually through its primary medical services and community development programs. The largest of the community development program, the Hope Refugee Drop-in Center (HRDC) was established to fill the need for post-resettlement services for refugees and secondary migrant refugees in Buffalo, in partnership with many of the refugee communities. As a client driven advocacy center, HRDC assists clients on their path to self-sufficiency. The summer fellow will have the opportunity to work with JRCHC multi-lingual staff, providing direct hands-on assistance to refugees. Recently, the organization has begun offering special topic workshops to its refugee clients in order to increase self-sufficiency. The summer fellow will assist creating and leading a workshop on a variety of topics. Other areas of focus could be volunteer recruitment, creating cultural and linguistically appropriate printed resources for our clients or conducting research in areas that would enhance our services.

## John R. Oishei Foundation

One Seneca Tower  
Suite 3650  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.856.9490  
[www.oishei.org](http://www.oishei.org)



The John R. Oishei Foundation is the area's largest private foundation with over \$300 million in assets. In addition to grantmaking, the Foundation is committed to devoting our time, people and networks to convening stakeholders around issues; initiating support and collaboration; sharing knowledge; building nonprofits' organizational capacity; and supporting the development of promising leaders in all communities and sectors.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for someone who would like to learn first-hand about philanthropy and its role in community and economic development:** The High Road Fellow would participate in the Foundation's areas of Philanthropic Support, Communications, and Knowledge Management, with such projects as:

1. *Philanthropic Support:* Partner with the Vice President of Philanthropic Support to provide customized plans of care to grantee organizations through management assistance and professional expertise. Serve as a catalyst for progress and change through philanthropic partnerships in board and organizational assessments, troubleshooting, executive succession, strategic planning, Board relations, leadership of staff, pursuing connections with partner organizations or networks within and across sectors.
2. *Communications:* Partner with the Communications Director in all areas of marketing and communications efforts for the Foundation. Assist with STEAM Awareness Program and other significant projects to be developed.
3. *Knowledge Management:* Partner with the Knowledge Management Officer, whose primary role is to transform data into meaningful and useful information, enabling both the Foundation staff and Board of Directors to make intelligent decisions grounded in facts. Assist with high-level research, analysis, and summative evaluations on projects to be developed.

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## Learning Disabilities Association of WNY

2555 Elmwood Avenue  
Kenmore, NY 14217  
716.874.7200  
[www.ldaofwny.org](http://www.ldaofwny.org)



LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION  
OF WESTERN NEW YORK

The Learning Disabilities Association of WNY is a parent and client led, professionally managed organization that assists individuals in gaining as much independence as their abilities allow. LDA provides an array of supports to individuals with learning disabilities, neurological impairments and other such disabilities. LDA programming includes service coordination (case management), leisure skill building, job coaching, residential services, and an art studio and gallery.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student concerned about employment and disability and expanding opportunities through employer education:** The summer fellow will work in cooperation with both the vocational and community relations departments in order to coordinate and promote the *WNY Business Mingle* event. *WNY Business Mingle*, a networking luncheon, aims to educate local business owners, managers and HR staff on the benefits on hiring individuals with learning disabilities. The fellow will recruit and engage potential employers to attend the event. To ensure lasting impact from the event, the fellow will track and record newly acquired employer connections into a database to build relations over the summer and for future use by LDA of WNY. This fellow will work directly with

LDA clients, screening and assisting individuals receiving Department of Social Services assistance to obtain employment through adult career and educational services and vocational rehabilitation.

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### Massachusetts Avenue Project

271 Grant Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.882.5327  
[www.mass-ave.org](http://www.mass-ave.org)



The Massachusetts Avenue Project nurtures the growth of a diverse, equitable community food system to promote local economic opportunities, access to affordable and nutritious food, and social-change education. MAP hosts the *Growing Green Program*, a youth development and urban agriculture program about increasing healthy food access.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for someone who would like to learn first-hand about the local food movement, urban farming and summer youth education:** MAP's Growing Green Program is a year-round youth development initiative that involves youth in solving Buffalo's challenges related to nutrition and healthy food access. The program trains at-risk youth in urban agriculture, food systems issues, microenterprise development and leadership. This summer fellow will work closely with MAP's Youth Education Director to help educate young people and the community about urban farming, produce marketing and distribution, food systems and food justice advocacy. The student will assist with the enterprise components of our Growing Green Program, including sales and marketing of farm produce and fish, value-added products, CSA distribution and assisting with Growing Green's youth-based entrepreneurial education program. The fellow will research and compile lesson plans for activities related to youth organizing and advocacy/policy change for MAP's youth leaders. The fellow will coordinate and assist with implementing simple lesson plans and with sales and promotion at various enterprise and market sites, including the Farm Stand and Mobile Market sites. The fellow should also research potential funding for those activities and create a timeline of when funding applications are due. The fellow will work with teens and volunteers at the urban farm.

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### Open Buffalo

237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.852.4191  
[www.openbuffalo.org](http://www.openbuffalo.org)



Open Buffalo is a civic initiative to make major, long-term improvements in justice and equity; it is an unprecedented collaboration among a diverse group of partners; and it is one of three projects in the nation chosen for the Open Places Initiative of the Open Society Foundations.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Projects for students interested in progressive economic development policies, utilizing technology and data for social change and leadership development:** Open Buffalo's priority areas are justice and opportunity, high road economic development, and worker equity. There are two opportunities for students with the organization this summer, one focusing on work around economic justice and one supporting a new leadership development program.

**(I) Economic Justice Fellow:** The Economic Justice Fellow will provide research support and technical assistance to two of Open Buffalo's issue tables: the High Road Economic Development table and the Worker Equity. Additionally, the Economic Justice Fellow will work with the Open Buffalo Director of Civic Capacity to re-launch the Western New York Civic Engagement Table, a coalition of core Open Buffalo and Partnership for the Public Good partner organizations building their field capacity through

enhanced use of data, targeting, and metrics based organizing. The Fellow will assist in creating a plan for building the data capacity of WNY Civic Engagement Table members, with a focus on the industry standard data and targeting tool, the Voter Activation Network (VAN). As a final project, the Economic Justice Fellow will submit a VAN Integration Blueprint, which can be used by new and existing partners to evaluate their current data capacity and make a plan for building their data capacity over time.

**(II) Leadership Development Fellow:** The Leadership Development Fellow will work collaboratively with Open Buffalo staff and stakeholders to design curriculum, provide research support and technical assistance for two of Open Buffalo's leadership programs: the Emerging Leaders program -- a cohort of 50 organizational members and volunteers who will participate in a mix of classes and field training totaling 30-40 hours over three months -- and the Democracy Fellows program -- a cohort of 10 organizational members and volunteers who will participate in a more rigorous mix of classes, trainings, field work, peer coaching, and mentorship. As a final project, the Leadership Development Fellow will design and teach a course to the Democracy Fellows, and present materials developed to the Emerging Leaders participants.

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### Partnership for the Public Good

237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.852.4191

[www.ppgbuffalo.org](http://www.ppgbuffalo.org)



The Partnership for the Public Good is working to build a more just, sustainable and culturally vibrant Greater Buffalo through action-oriented research, policy development and citizen engagement. With over 150 affiliated partners, PPG develops an annual Community Agenda of policy planks, hosts a weekly radio show, and produces publications and other resources to give the nonprofit community and citizens a stronger voice in public policy.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student committed to successful implementation of living wage ordinances and language access legislation:** This summer fellowship will focus on increasing equity through local policy. Each year, the PPG leads a broad-based, democratic process to craft a Community Agenda for the year: ten public policy changes that state or local government can make to help build a better Buffalo. An important plank this year is to ensure that all residents – including immigrants and refugees – have meaningful access to government services, as required by federal and state civil rights laws. PPG also staffs the City of Buffalo's Living Wage Commission, a volunteer commission created in 2003, to monitor and enforce the City's Living Wage Ordinance. The summer fellow will work to advance the objectives of these two initiatives through applied research and community outreach. The fellow will staff an existing collaborative advocacy group working to craft and implement Limited English Proficiency plans for the City and County to improve language access to government services for Buffalo's growing immigrant and refugee population. The fellow will coordinate meetings, conduct necessary research and advocate for the group as necessary. The fellow will monitor and assist with compliance efforts for the City's Living Wage Commission. This fellow will also help organize, promote and stage the third annual Shakespearean Idol contest, PPG's annual fundraiser.

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## **PUSH Buffalo**

271 Grant Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.882.5327

[www.pushbuffalo.org](http://www.pushbuffalo.org)



PUSH Buffalo is a local membership-based community organization fighting to make affordable housing a reality on Buffalo's West Side. Push works to mobilize residents to create strong neighborhoods with quality, affordable housing, expand local hiring opportunities and to advance economic justice in Buffalo.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student who wants to be directly involved in grassroots neighborhood development, urban housing and community empowerment:** In 2007, PUSH established its first rental property as a centerpiece of affordable housing and local job creation. Since then the organization has completed numerous state and federally-funded affordable housing projects with a focus on green and energy-efficient buildings. PUSH constantly researches and experiments with different models of governance and participation in order to fulfill its vision for "community control of resources," especially as it seeks to engage tenants and develop tenant leaders who "know what they need where they live." PUSH's summer fellow will continue this research to help direct PUSH's strategy for future development projects. The summer fellow will help to analyze data collected through PUSH's community planning work to help PUSH make future development decisions. The student will work directly with PUSH's Community Organizing and Community Development departments on community planning initiatives including direct canvassing as well as helping to design other community engagement strategies. As part of this process, the student would track changes in property values and rents over the last five years, examine vacant property data, and analyze data from community planning sessions to understand changes in the local housing market and help PUSH make future development decisions. This work carries on the contributions of PUSH's 2014 High Road Fellow.

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## **The United Way of Buffalo and Erie County**

742 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
716.887.2626

[www.uwbec.org](http://www.uwbec.org)



The overall mission of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County is to bring people, resources, and organizations together to improve community well-being. Key to achieving our mission is being able to widely communicate the most pressing issues in our community and how we are/ should be collectively working towards improving these issues. As part of this endeavor, UWBECC's newly created research and analytics department is increasingly using data to understand what the highest priority needs are, what issues the community most identifies with, and what the most effective interventions may be.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for someone interested in community-controlled capital, financial education, and credit unions for low-income neighborhoods:** The High Road Fellow will assist the UWBECC research team in the creation of a series of "Community Briefs." This project will span the areas of research, policy, and practice/implementation. Each community brief will focus on a specific community issue that falls within the scope of UWBECC's work in education, financial stability, or health/wellness. The fellow would have autonomy in choosing community issues that he/she deems most relevant to his/her interests. The student will collect relevant data, outline the problem/issue, analyze data to explain what is causing specific trends, summarize UWBECC's work on the issue, and offer recommendations for interventions based on a review of best practices and local capacity. In addition to

the community brief research, the student will have the opportunity to engage with their chosen community issue as a policy or advocacy issue. This would encompass writing advocacy letters, helping to plan capacity building events, and identifying the best channels for advocacy efforts to be focused. Moreover, we would like the student to understand how research and policy can translate into practice.

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### **WNY Council on Occupational Safety and Health, Worker Center**

2495 Main Street, Suite 438  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
716.833.5416

[www.wnycosh.org](http://www.wnycosh.org)



WNYCOSH is a nonprofit membership organization established in 1979 by labor unions, labor educators, and health professionals, to provide educational and technical assistance to workers on occupational safety and health. WNYCOSH also provides access to safety trainers and experts in toxicology, industrial hygiene, epidemiology, and occupational medicine, and is coordinating the new Worker Center in Buffalo, founded to address the needs of immigrant/refugee workers, unemployed or underemployed youth, and low-wage workers in many sectors.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for a student dedicated to expanding rights and opportunities for low-wage workers through the growing network of worker centers.** This summer fellow will work on expanding the Worker Center network across the state and help deepen its impact locally. The fellow will support a campaign to reach, assist and empower workers in the temporary and low-wage workforce. The fellow will participate in networking with other worker centers and COSH groups around the country, convene local trainings for workers, and promote this work through social media. The Worker Center's campaign will target certain sectors of low-wage and temporary work such as the restaurant industry, manufacturing and construction. The summer fellow will assist in developing one of these campaigns by doing outreach to workers in these sectors and creating targeted materials. Materials will include Worker Rights factsheets and blog posts to raise awareness of these issues in the community. The fellow will also assist in trainings for workers and advocates.

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### **Western New York Law Center**

237 Main Street, Suite 1130  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.855.0203

[www.wnylc.net](http://www.wnylc.net)



The WNY Law Center is a nonprofit legal services organization of legal professionals representing low-income people in a full range of civil matters. They engage in direct representation of homeowners facing foreclosure as well as in fair lending advocacy and education. They also maintain the Online Resource Center with the Empire Justice Center.

**2015 Summer Fellowship Project for someone interested in mortgage foreclosure prevention, legal research, and equitable judicial settlement processes:** This High Road Fellow will work with law faculty and law students in a research project addressing the foreclosure process for homeowners. The fellow will chart the effectiveness of settlement conferences in preventing foreclosures. New York State is a judicial foreclosure state, which means that lenders have to go to court before they can foreclose on a property. This law requiring settlement conferences is scheduled to expire on 2/13/15. This fellow will work on data collection and analysis of the number of foreclosures in Erie County to evaluate the effectiveness of that law in saving homes. A preliminary study the Law Center did in 2012 showed that Erie County had the eighth highest number of foreclosures in NY, the most outside of the NYC area. It

found that homeowners who attended settlement conferences avoided foreclosure 90% of the time, compared with homeowners who did not who experienced foreclosure 42% of the time. In addition to charting and analyzing data, the fellow will attend settlement conferences and talk to clients, judges, court personnel and legislators about the effectiveness of the settlement conference process. S/he would participate in publishing an updated report on the settlement conference process that could inform the decision about extending the law requiring settlement conferences in New York State.

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### **Young Audiences of WNY**

1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.881.0917  
[www.yawny.org](http://www.yawny.org)



Young Audiences is a dynamic and growing provider of arts learning opportunities, providing services within eight counties of Western New York. Its mission is to make the visual, performing, and literary arts a part of young people’s lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings. Over the years, Young Audiences has demonstrated expertise in helping young people develop the essential skills—from collaborative engagement and leadership to critical thinking and communication—necessary for the 21st century workplace.

### **2015 Summer Fellowship Project for someone interested in arts education and workforce**

**development:** This High Road Fellow will support Young Audiences’ ArtWorks program which strengthens the connection between “P-12” system, higher education, and business; it takes the groundwork of quality outside-of-school time learning and adds workforce development. The result is a unique program where Buffalo youth define their futures through the creative arts. The ArtWorks program will address the need for youth to develop skills in a real-world work environment, and builds core competencies that are sorely needed in today’s world economy. After the program commences in July, fellows will be provided the opportunity to use their studies to lead 4 workshops for the ArtWorks apprentices (ages 14-18). We request that fellows focus on aspects of economic development such as job readiness and college prep skills. Potential topics might include investment in your local community, creative problem solving, time management, and research. Fellows will work with Young Audiences staff to choose and finalize workshop topics. Workshops will run twice a day for an hour each on Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks. In addition to time spent on ArtWorks, the fellow will contribute to developing a sustainable presentation regarding the role of community arts education in economic development.

## The High Road Runs Through the City . . .from Ithaca to Buffalo

**The City:** Buffalo is the ideal location for this “ILR in the real world” experience. An historic powerhouse of industry, transportation and culture, this Queen City of the Lakes is rediscovering and redeploying its assets to recover from sprawl without growth, income stagnation and inequality. Lacking corporate headquarters or wealth-spreading patrons, the **residents of this blue-collar town are reinventing and reconstructing the local economy from the ground up.** Neighborhood business districts are beginning to rebound on all sides of the city. Unions have joined community and social justice activists to attack the causes of poverty. The social networks that support the city’s **extraordinary architectural and cultural assets** earn Buffalo first place as an arts destination among mid-sized American cities. Its **natural assets and legacy of industrial innovation form the basis for developing sustainable energy enterprises, green jobs and a restoration economy.** It would be hard to find a better place for students to study firsthand the challenges of poverty, the economic impact of state and local government policies, the promise of new state and national investment and intervention, the evolving reality of labor-management relations, and the innovative role of nonprofit organizations. Buffalo serves up a banquet for students hungry for progressive work and career exploration.

*I am loving Buffalo. I think I liked it the second I got off the plane on Sunday morning. It’s flat (totally bikable), there’s always a lovely breeze, aaaannndd the food is AMAZING. Oh, and there is Canada too. . . One thing that Buffalo has confirmed is my belief in the good hard work of people who care for other people.*

Derya Akbaba, 2011 High Road Fellow

*My time on the High Road has been spent doing a lot of observing and reflecting on what I see in my work and in the community. I feel challenged to work towards social justice and a better, more equitable world. Some of my experiences have reinvigorated my desire to continue towards a career in law and politics with the goal of creating a more equal America.*

Gabrielle Hickmon, 2013 High Road Fellow

This fellowship program is designed to **give students a real feel for a great, exciting, struggling city and let them become involved** in a variety of ways – through immersion in the reality of poverty, through participation in the city’s hip arts scene. By experience, they learn about things that are going right in local development, as well as things that are not. Students

from the Buffalo area get a new view of their hometown, while newcomers take an urban adventure. Affordable group housing options are available for students not from the area.

**The Buffalo office of Cornell ILR** has a rich sixty-year history in the region. It has been at the center of strategies to build labor-management collaboration for good jobs and productivity at both the workplace and community level, to promote high road economic development policies, and to bridge the union-nonunion divide through efforts such as living wage campaigns, the provision of affordable child care, and worker rights programs. Its faculty and staff have not only played leading roles in promoting mutual interests in these arenas, they also have extensive and valuable networks with business, union, education, government, and community organizations. High Road Fellows meet in the Buffalo ILR office, a hub of diverse activities that is also home to the economists of the regional office of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Partnership for the Public Good, the Coalition for Economic Justice, and Open Buffalo.

*This fellowship has been life changing. It has changed my perspective on many aspects of life and I hope I can find work like it in the future. . . Week in Reviews were awesome – to hear what all of the other Fellows were doing and to see how all of our work was linked under a common goal.*

Jeffrey Baker, 2011 High Road Fellow

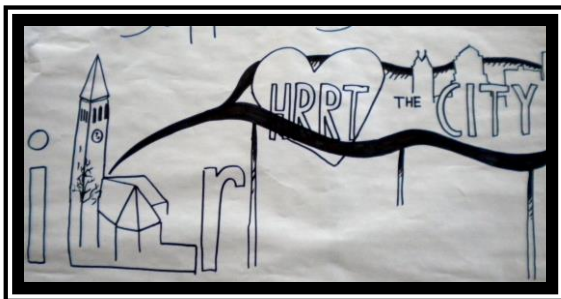
**Many ILR courses** are applicable to this fellowship program: Ron Applegate, *Governing Economic Development: The U.S. Experience*; Joe Grasso, *Non-profit Finance and Management*; Ron Applegate, Rose Batt, Sarosh Kuruvilla, *Work, Labor and Capital in the Global Economy*; Lance Compas, *Corporate Social Responsibility*; Diane Burton, *Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurial Organizations*; among others. Additional **ILR faculty research interests** are relevant, including those of Matt Freedman, Marya Basharov, and others.

**Faculty sponsors** for High Road Summer Fellowships:

- **Lou Jean Fleron**, now ILR emeritus, directs the High Road Fellowships. A Cornell ILR Extension faculty member since 1977, her research and teaching areas are public economic policy, industry and community development, and labor management relations. She served as director of ILR Western Region and is the author of studies on regional economic development, including *Champions @ Work: Employment, Workplace Practices and Labor-Management Relations in Western New York*, and *Buffalo Child Care Means Business*. Prior to working at ILR, she taught political science at SUNY Buffalo and the University of Kentucky. Lou Jean was chair of Buffalo Living Wage Commission 2003-2010 and is currently co-director of the Partnership for the Public Good.  
**Contact: [ljf8@cornell.edu](mailto:ljf8@cornell.edu); 716.852.4191 X 118.**
- **Sam Magavern**, adjunct faculty of Cornell ILR, also teaches at the University at Buffalo Law School. He joined the clinical law faculty in 2007 after a year as compliance coordinator for the City of Buffalo Living Wage Commission. His classes focus on the policy aspects of affordable housing and community economic development and offer students experience in action-oriented research and policy advocacy. He practiced for twelve years with the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, specializing in housing litigation, community legal education, and public policy advocacy. Sam is currently co-director of the Partnership for the Public Good. He grew up in Buffalo and graduated from Harvard College and UCLA Law School. When not teaching, he writes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.  
**Contact: [magavern@gmail.com](mailto:magavern@gmail.com); 716.852.4191 X 117.**
- **Ron Applegate**, economic and labor historian, is a lecturer at Cornell ILR in the department of labor relations, law and history. Previously, he devoted two decades to community and labor organizing. He also coordinated community-based economic development programs for Over-the-Rhine Housing Network in Cincinnati, Ohio and Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell, Massachusetts. His current teaching and research on the history of U.S. political economy focuses on collective action to increase public control over economic development.  
**Contact: [ra40@cornell.edu](mailto:ra40@cornell.edu); 607.255.1139.**
- **Megan Connelly** serves a dual role as the associate director for the High Road Fellowships as well as director of policy advancement for the Partnership for the Public Good. Megan is a graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School. She previously worked at Neighborhood Legal Services on the Homeless Task Force in Buffalo, at the Youth Justice Project in South Bend, Indiana, and for the University at Buffalo's Office of Civic Engagement and the Regional Institute. She believes that her own service experiences as an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame helped to shape her values, interests and ultimately, her career path and would like to provide similar transformative opportunities for students to engage with and learn from the community.  
**Contact: [mlc322@cornell.edu](mailto:mlc322@cornell.edu); 716.852.4191 X 110.**

*So here's to Buffalo, to my final journal entry, to my final night in the NetZero house, to a crazy work project that was crazy successful, to all the support from Lou Jean and Megan, to my elderly swimming ladies at the JCC, to eating cinnamon rolls at Five Points. Here's to Buffalo, the little (big) city that has captured my life and my heart this summer.*

*Andrea Thomas, 2011 High Road*



**Drawing by High Road Fellows 2011**

**For more information about 2014 projects,  
the process of application and selection,  
housing information, or  
contact information for previous High Road Fellows,  
please call or write:  
Lou Jean Fleron or Megan Connelly**