

[Click to print](#)

Another Voice / UB 2020

William L. Joyce: State must approve plan for health sector to blossom

By William L. Joyce

Updated: April 29, 2010, 11:42 am /

Published: April 24, 2010, 12:30 am

As many Western New York residents now realize, the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus is a rapidly burgeoning consortium of premier health care, life sciences, medical education institutions and community interests located downtown. It includes the University at Buffalo, Kaleida Health, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Hauptman- Woodward Institute, Buffalo Hearing&Speech Center, Buffalo Medical Group, Olmsted Center for Sight, Upstate New York Transplant Services and Hospice, as well as the Fruit Belt and Allentown neighborhoods.

The campus to date has undergone dramatic growth both in terms of downtown employment (now at 8,500) and infrastructure additions (more than \$1 billion over the last nine years), including the in-progress Kaleida/UB Global Vascular Institute and Clinical and Translational Research Center. It is clearly one of the most tangible expressions of successful economic development in our region that is also directly responsive to the evolving health needs of our citizenry.

As much as has been accomplished, however, is only a starting point for what can truly be transformational for Western New York's economy and its health sciences advancements. UB 2020 has, as one of its major components, the relocation of its medical school, nursing school and school of public health to the downtown campus.

Combined with the aforementioned institutions already there, Buffalo would have all the components of an academic health complex of national stature. It would absolutely turbo-charge the potential for economic growth, scientific advancement, wellness outcome improvements, entrepreneurial spin-offs, urban revitalization and civic pride. Well-paid employment on the campus would increase to 13,000-plus. Ten thousand students would circulate throughout. New construction would be worth more than \$1 billion. Start-up and existing biotech companies will be increasingly anxious to locate in proximity. Service businesses will be needed in support.

This is not pie-in-the-sky optimism—it's real, it's doable and it is an opportunity we cannot allow to slip from our grasp.

The UB 2020 plan proposes certain New York State legislative initiatives that require no taxpayer support—they merely allow UB modest regulatory latitude and tuition management prerogative so it can control its own destiny. Yet this legislation, so critical to all of our collective potential on the campus, is in jeopardy due to inaction in Albany.

If you want Buffalo and Western New York to grow and prosper, this is your chance to help. Call or write your state legislators. Our local delegation is already supportive, but reinforce it. Also call or write state legislative leaders. Demand that they respect our desire and need to see this legislation pass.

Demand that they let us use our own resources to help ourselves prosper.

William L. Joyce is chairman of the board of directors of Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.



Newsletters

Sign up now for daily and weekly newsletters from BuffaloNews.com and get quick links to the info you want delivered directly to your inbox.