

Business First of Buffalo - April 19, 2010
[/buffalo/stories/2010/04/19/editorial5.html](#)



Friday, April 16, 2010

Memo to New York state: Save UB 2020

Business First of Buffalo

UB 2020 is at risk – and we should all be alarmed by it.

For years, Western New Yorkers have called for the University at Buffalo to be a leader in our community.

UB 2020 was the answer to the call.

Large public universities can have an enormous impact on an area. They can provide relatively affordable schooling for local students while bringing thousands of out-of-towners here. They are centers of intellectual wealth that employ large numbers of people, usually at good salaries. They promote conversation, nurture leadership and spur economic development.

They are vital to their region, as UB is to Buffalo.

UB 2020 is a plan that would serve all of Western New York.

Now, as Allissa Kline reports in this edition, UB 2020 is in peril. Steep state budget cuts threaten to stunt the university's growth. Meanwhile, the state Assembly and Senate have failed to support the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act.

The PHEEIA would allow UB and other state colleges and universities to leverage private funding to create growth. It would free UB of some of the most restrictive bureaucratic constraints and allow the university's leaders to make key financial decisions.

PHEEIA, which was proposed by Gov. David Paterson, is key to the survival of UB 2020.

Our entire state delegation should be rallying behind it.

From a political standpoint, it's easy to say you support UB 2020. Collectively the plan is supposed to create more than 25,000 jobs and increase UB's impact on the area by an extra \$2 billion. It's an easy plan to like.

But supporting a plan and fighting for it are two different things. We'd really like to see our assemblymembers and senators stop giving lip service to UB 2020 and start demanding action in Albany.



Jim Courtney

President John Simpson isn't backing down on making UB2020 a reality.

[View Larger](#)

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.