

Business First of Buffalo - February 4, 2010
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Thursday, February 4, 2010

Panel will prep for future UB hires

Business First of Buffalo - by [Allissa Kline](#)

The **University at Buffalo** announced Thursday that an advisory board is being formed to help identify and create ways to make sure local residents are prepared to fill future jobs created by UB 2020, the university's long-range growth plan.

The UB 2020 Opportunities Advisory Council will work with UB's new Office of Economic Engagement to improve current gaps in local training and education programs so that community members seeking jobs tied by UB 2020 initiatives have the necessary skills and access to get those jobs. The board, which will include between eight and 10 members, is being led by June Hoeflich, a former **HSBC Bank USA** executive and recent president and CEO of Sheehan Memorial Hospital.

Council members will evaluate the skills and training needed for future jobs, starting with the anticipated 120 entry- and mid-level jobs in administration and technical support to be available when UB's Clinical and Translational Research Center and Biosciences Incubator opens in 2011, Hoeflich said during Thursday's new conference.

The council will also work toward increasing the number of minority- and women-owned businesses doing business with UB.

In addition to Hoeflich, three additional members of the board were identified Thursday, including Sherryl Weems, director of UB's Educational Opportunity Center; Bishop Michael Badger, pastor at Bethesda World Harvest International Church; and Tom Fentner, senior vice president of human resources at **HealthNow New York Inc.**, the parent of BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York and BlueShield of Northeastern New York.

Marsha Henderson, UB vice president for external affairs who's leading the Office of Economic Engagement, said it's critical to start planning now for future jobs so that the community can "participate in the fullest way" in the UB 2020 vision. She said the council's purpose is to help UB and its partners develop a deep talent pool from which to draw when new jobs are available.

The \$5 billion UB 2020 plan, which would impact all three UB campuses, calls for bringing 3,000 new workers to downtown Buffalo, in addition to 10,000 more students and 750 new faculty. Pieces of the master plan have begun, but the university is fighting for more freedom from the state in order to speed up the process.

Gov. David Paterson's proposed 2010-11 budget currently includes a legislative bill to give New York state universities and colleges greater control of their fiscal affairs. If passed, UB officials say it will allow the university to act more independently and efficiently in pushing forward with UB 2020.

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