

UB REGIONAL INSTITUTE

HARNESSING THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE

Presentation to the
Faculty Staff Senate Executive Committee
October 22, 2009

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University at Buffalo Regional Institute
The State University of New York



ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Opened	Fall, 1997
Mission	Promote regional excellence through research and policy analysis to frame issues, inform decisions and guide change
Governance	Unit of UB Law School (<i>previously under "Public Service and Urban Affairs"</i>) Five-member Advisory Council <i>representing Law, Arts & Sciences, Architecture and Planning, VP for External Affairs</i>
Location	Beck Hall, UB South Campus (<i>with move to UB Downtown Gateway, November 2009</i>)
Approach	Independent Evidence-based Innovative in analysis and visual presentation



ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

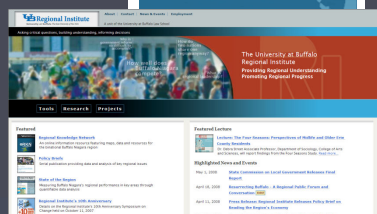
Staff	9 people (1 faculty, 8 professional staff) Non-resident faculty fellows (varies, up to 5) Graduate assistants (2-6 pending projects)
Budget	\$957,100 in FY 2009-10; approx. 75% "soft money"
Sources	University at Buffalo: 25% "hard dollars" Grants and Contracts: 75%, of which to date... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> foundations: 53% government: 7% private: 24% UB contract support: 16%
Focus Areas	Governance Regional economy Demographic change Binational regions
Modes	Data and info management tools Research and policy analysis Client projects Civic engagement

DATA and INFO MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Powerful. Flexible. Free.

- Regional Knowledge Network (RKN)
- State of the Region (SOTR) Performance Indicators
- UBRI Web site resources

➤ *in the works*: RKN/SOTR merger and enhancement

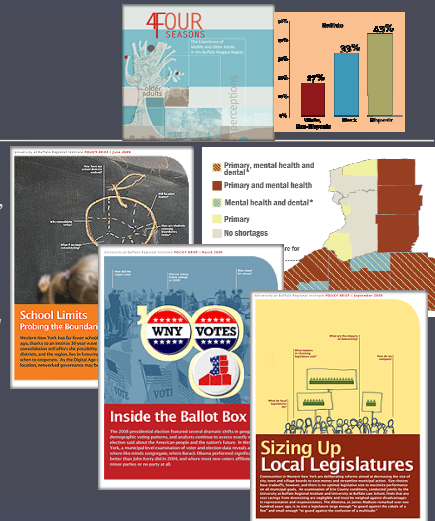


RESEARCH and POLICY ANALYSIS

Timely. Informative. Actionable.

- Policy briefs
- “Building Resilient Regions”
- “Region’s Edge” studies

➤ *in the works:* “The Well-Governed Region” series; policy research on cross-border decision-making



PROJECTS

Responsive. Creative. Professional.

- Alternatives to Incarceration
- Tourism for Erie Co. Southtowns
- Reaching for Excellence: Community Visions for WNY Health Care
- UB Innovation Impact
- Pathways to Progress: Women and Girls of WNY

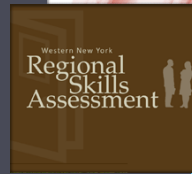
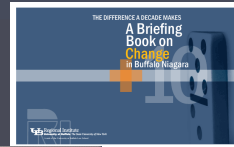
➤ *in the works:* Buffalo Niagara labor market assessment; economic impact of human service nonprofits



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Relevant. Collaborative. Purposeful.

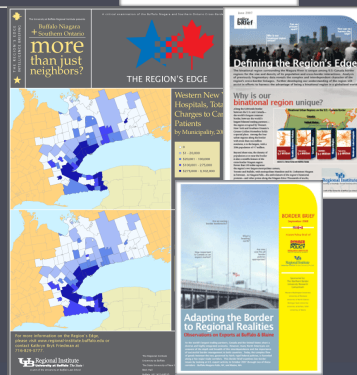
- UBRI Tenth Anniversary Symposium on Change
- Public Forum: “Resurrecting Buffalo”
- Census 2010 partnerships
- UB-Business Partners Day: Regional Skills Assessment
- *in the works*: Spring Forum on “the well-governed border”



MULTI-MODE: THE REGION'S EDGE

What does it mean to be a binational region in a global world?

- **Data Tools**: Database of cross-border stocks and flows
- **Research**: Border briefs; Border Barometers I and II
- **Project**: Northern Border Consortium
- **Civic Engagement**: Region's Edge briefings; Niagara Ten priorities
- *in the works*: Niagara Falls Bridge Commission border analysis; redefining the global city region



MULTI-MODE: BETTER BY DEGREES

How does Western New York leverage its higher education sector for greater regional prosperity?

- **Data Tools:** cross-region database on higher ed performance
- **Research:** Eco impact of WNY higher ed; comparative analysis of higher ed by region
- **Project:** “Match/Gap Analysis”; best practices in higher ed consortia
- **Civic Engagement:** WNY Higher Education Consortium task force
- **in the works:** *Better by Degrees* revamped Web site



TOPICS ON TAP?

UB Regional Institute Policy Briefs – What Comes Next?

Topics we've recently covered ...

- Sept 09: Downsizing Local Legislatures
- June 09: School District Consolidation
- March 09: Western New York Voting Patterns & Trends
- Jan 09: Post-retirement Health Costs for Local Governments
- Oct 08: U.S.-Canada Border Management
- Aug 08: Thirty Years After Love Canal: Environmental Health
- June 08: When I'm 65: Issues of Aging in Buffalo Niagara
- March 08: Measuring the New Economy
- Jan 08: Newest Arrivals: Immigration Patterns & Impacts
- Nov. 07: Getting Around: Regional Transportation Options & Challenges
- Sept 07: Open Space Governance
- July 07: Regional Identity and “Naming”



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<http://regional-institute.buffalo.edu>

