






Education/Self Sufficiency


: [Education chief copes with shortfall in state aid](#)
State Education Commissioner called for a series of controversial reforms — including lifting a cap on charter schools — that are designed in large measure to enhance the state's chances of being awarded from \$500 million to \$700 million in highly competitive federal grant money.


: [Board of Regents Eyes Federal Money for Education Reforms](#)
State Board of Regents is moving forward with an application for funding from the federal government's "Race to the Top" program. The Board is embarking on a reform agenda that could create more charter schools and link teacher compensation to student performance.

: [NYS college grads deep in debt](#)
Graduates of colleges and universities in NYS leave campus with some of the highest debts in the nation. The report finds students across New York who graduated in 2008 departed with average debt of \$25,950, the 4th-highest in the U.S, compared to national average for college debt of \$23,200.


: [Crime threatens students around city schools](#)
Many Buffalo students face safety concerns going to and from school because of crime in city neighborhoods. Parents at East High School said several students have been robbed recently near the school. Superintendent Williams said similar problems have also popped up near Bennett High School, the temporary location for City Honors and some of the other 60 Buffalo school buildings.


: [ECC expects \\$1.2 million midyear cut by state](#)
ECC is bracing for a midyear cut of about \$1.2 million from the state. Community colleges were spared cuts last year because Gov. Paterson used federal stimulus money to help maintain the funding formula for community colleges—\$2,675 for each full-time-equivalent student. But now, the state is expected to trim the community college funding to help deal with state budget deficit.

: [Improving School Leadership: The Promise of Cohesive Leadership Systems](#)
Describes Wallace grantees' work to create a cohesive leadership system of coordinated policies between states and districts and across state agencies, states' and districts' efforts to forge cohesive policies.


: [Region's employment scene stabilizing](#)
The unemployment rate in the Buffalo Niagara region slipped to 8% in November as the pace of job losses slowed. While the region has lost 13,800 jobs over the last year, the annual rate of the decline, which had peaked at 3% in September, slowed for the second straight month to 2.5% in November.


Philanthropy/Grantmaking

: [Evaluation in Philanthropy: From the Field](#)
Summarizes findings on grantmakers' approaches to evaluation, defined as "systematic information gathering and research about grantmaker-supported activities that informs learning and drives improvement."


: [Essentials of Foundation Strategy](#)
Identifies defining elements of strategic foundation leaders; characteristics of their plans, communications, grantmaking, and assessments; need to back strategic plans with logic models; and challenges.


Regional Assets

: [Mayor says stalemate over parks nears end](#)
There's more than just hope that the high-profile stalemate over Buffalo's historic Olmsted parks will end soon. Mayor Brown announced a breakthrough that will allow the city to negotiate more substantively with the Olmsted Parks Conservancy.


: [Fund for the Arts aids smaller cultural groups](#)
Founded after Erie County wiped out support for smaller cultural organizations, Fund for the Arts has funneled about \$800,000 into such causes. An initiative that aims to help organizations sharpen business practices will provide \$300,000 more.

 On [WBFO](#)

: [Research institute moves downtown](#)
A policy and research center has been relocated, in what marks the beginning of moves to strengthen UB's presence downtown. UB's Regional Institute has moved from Beck Hall on the South Campus to refurbished space on the third floor of UB's Downtown Gateway building, formerly the M. Wile building, 77 Goodell St.

: [Richardson Center Corp. receives \\$7.8 million more for stabilization](#)
The new allocation of funding will be added to about \$2 million previously received for stabilization. They have fixed collapsed ceilings and repaired damaging leaks. Starting next spring that work will be stepped up to include electrical improvements and asbestos abatement.

Community Health

: [Health Reform and Communities of Color: How Might It Affect Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities?](#)
Examines provisions in the healthcare reform proposals that may reduce health disparities by expanding coverage and access to care for minorities, including Medicaid expansions, insurance exchange subsidies, and more funding for community health centers.