



CE

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
 Governor of New York State  
 NYS State Capitol Building  
 Albany, NY 12224

January 20, 2012

Governor Cuomo,

We write to request an amendment to the State University of New York's proposed \$15 million budget earmark for a **Health Sciences Center for Excellence** at **Erie Community College's** North Campus.

Young Citizens for ECC believes such a facility is worthy of support, but that the only sensible location is **ECC's City Campus** steps from the **Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus**. We urge you to amend SUNY's earmark and shift this investment to the City Campus where it can leverage existing investments, better advance the college's mission, and boost the region's health sciences industry.

The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus is the biggest job creator in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls MSA, which the Brookings Institute recently revealed had the nation's 4th highest income growth over the past two years. This is a major success story to which UB will soon be a contributor, yet ECC is missing in action.

The American Association of Community Colleges reports more than 50% of all health sciences workers in the United States are trained at community colleges. If the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus is to continue its growth trajectory, Erie Community College cannot continue to stand on the sidelines. We're asking you to step in.

Bringing ECC's proposed Health Sciences Center for Excellence to the regional hub of downtown Buffalo is the only alternative consistent with the smart growth and workforce development objectives of your **WNY Regional Economic Development Strategy Plan**. Buffalo has a long history of not implementing its own plans, but we believe you can end this senseless and counterproductive pattern.

We are asking you to put this wayward project back on track and bring this investment to downtown Buffalo where it belongs. An amendment to the earmark, changing the words "North Campus" to "City Campus," can finally make Erie Community College an active partner in Buffalo's fastest growing job sector.

We are counting on your leadership to help realize this unprecedented opportunity for Buffalo. It is time to expand ECC's City Campus. Thank you kindly for your consideration. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [youngcitizensforecc@gmail.com](mailto:youngcitizensforecc@gmail.com) or (760) 408-7898.

Sincerely,

Bernice Radle  
 Chair

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