

**Graber, Robert**

**From:** Grant, Betty  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 12:35 PM  
**To:** Graber, Robert  
**Subject:** FW: Future of Compass East

Bob, please refer this to health and Human Services. Betty Jean

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**From:** Jason Kulaszewski [<mailto:jmkulaszewski@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2013 2:38 PM  
**To:** Grant, Betty  
**Subject:** Future of Compass East

Representative Grant,

Hello, I am contacting you today to express support for the progress at the Shehean Hospital Site, now called Compass East. As it was stated by the many representatives of the community and the members of the surrounding community, that this project is a great opportunity to bring new life into that facility. I was particularly fond of Reverend Pridgeon's take on it, as a resurrection of the site as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection this Easter season. I think we all agree that this property is in a very strategic location, and is poised to provide a fantastic service to the citizens in your district. The variety of services located on this site, as well as the future development of this site by the McGuire Group will provide countless opportunities for members of your constituency, however there is one piece missing.

The educational component in this facility is lacking, and as expressed by the McGuire Group in previous statements to the press, they are looking for an educational facility to procure space in this complex. We at Young Citizens for ECC believe that this location is the perfect opportunity for Erie Community College to come to the table, and provide world class educational opportunities for the members of not only your district, but to the community as a whole. Our grass roots organization has been urging the members of the board at ECC to consider a downtown location that is accessible to the largest number of students to place their proposed Health-Science facility (or programs) on the doorstep of the Buffalo-Niagara Medical Campus corridor rather than in suburban Amherst. Their proposed site for expanded Health-Science programs in Amherst strips opportunity from the potential students in our district and other urban districts that rely on public transportation for access to higher education in what is the most sought after sector of the economy, Health-Sciences. In the City of Buffalo, one-third of our citizens do not have access to a vehicle, and rely on public transportation as their primary mode of transportation. By locating a Health Science facility in suburban Amherst Erie Community College does a disservice to members of our community that deserve access to higher educational opportunities and don't have the luxury of an automobile. They fail to follow through on their mission and provide real educational opportunities to all members of Erie County and Western New York, by neglecting to provide these opportunities to those with limited, or no access to an automobile.

We at Young Citizens for ECC understand the financial burden that the County faces when the issue of charge backs is brought to the forefront of this conversation, but as Senator Kennedy works with leadership at SUNY to change those rules in Albany, that issue falls out of the picture, and then the only issue is how ECC can best serve the largest population of students. The answer to that is by placing their Health-Science facility (or programs) at the doorstep of the Buffalo-Niagara Medical Campus at Compass East. This location is the center of activity in Erie County, as well as the fastest growing employment opportunity and largest regional economic engine since Bethlehem Steel at the turn of the Twentieth Century. We have done the research and it shows that a downtown location will benefit the greatest number of students from the entire Western New York area due to its central location, all roads lead to Buffalo. We have gained unanimous support from Buffalo's City Council, as well as some members of the Board of Trustees at ECC. We now ask you for your support in bringing Erie

Community College's Health-Science programs to Downtown Buffalo. As the County Representative in the City of Buffalo, we believe that this issue most affects constituents in and around your district, and ask for your support in doing what is right for these members of our community in your district. I also want to note that I am a homeowner in your district, as well as an alumnus of Erie Community College.

If you would like more information regarding the issues involved with bringing Erie Community College's Health-Science programs to the BNMC, and ultimately Compass East, please feel free to contact us, the Young Citizens for ECC. We would love the opportunity to speak further with you on this issue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Jason Kulaszewski

Young Citizens for ECC

[716-903-1546](tel:716-903-1546)

[imkulaszewski@gmail.com](mailto:imkulaszewski@gmail.com)