

September 21, 2009

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 11

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 8M-15 (2009)
ARTS COUNCIL: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
 - b. COMM. 8M-16 (2009)
EL MUSEO: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
 - c. COMM. 8M-17 (2009)
BUFFALO ARTS STUDIO: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
 - d. COMM. 8M-18 (2009)
MUSICAL FARE: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
 - e. COMM. 9E-18 (2009)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE: "Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau"
(6-0)
 - f. COMM. 9M-1 (2009)
IRISH CLASSICAL THEATER COMPANY: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
 - g. COMM. 9M-2 (2009)
ROYCROFT CAMPUS CORPORATION: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)

- h. COMM. 9M-3 (2009)
BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
- i. COMM. 9M-4 (2009)
MARTIN HOUSE RESTORATION CORPORATION: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
- j. COMM. 9M-6 (2009)
LANCASTER OPERA HOUSE: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
- k. COMM. 9M-7 (2009)
BUFFALO ZOO: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
- l. COMM. 9M-8 (2009)
PENN DIXIE: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
- m. COMM. 9M-9 (2009)
SPRINGVILLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
- n. COMM. 9M-10 (2009)
EXPLORE & MORE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
- o. COMM. 9M-11 (2009)
GRAYCLIFF CONSERVANCY, INC.: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)
- p. COMM. 9M-12 (2009)
AMERICAN LEGION BAND OF THE TONAWANDAS: "Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report"
(6-0)

- q. COMM. 9M-13 (2009)
YOUNG AUDIENCES ARTS FOR LEARNING: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- r. COMM. 9M-14 (2009)
COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL OF BUFFALO: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- s. COMM. 9M-16 (2009)
JUST BUFFALO LITERARY CENTER: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- t. COMM. 9M-17 (2009)
FOLKLORIC PRODUCTIONS DANCE CO., INC.: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- u. COMM. 9M-18 (2009)
AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER : “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- v. COMM. 9M-19 (2009)
LOCUST STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ART CLASSES: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- w. COMM. 9M-20 (2009)
BIG ORBIT GALLERY: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- x. COMM. 9M-21 (2009)
CEPA GALLERY: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)

- y. COMM. 9M-23 (2009)
BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- z. COMM. 9M-25 (2009)
BALLET ARTISTS OF WNY, INC.: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- aa. COMM. 9M-27 (2009)
ALLEYWAY THEATRE: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- bb. COMM. 9M-30 (2009)
THEODORE ROOSEVELT INAUGURAL SITE: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- cc. COMM. 9M-31 (2009)
SHAKESPEARE IN DELAWARE PARK: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- dd. COMM. 9M-32 (2009)
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY NAVAL & MILITARY PARK: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- ee. COMM. 9M-33 (2009)
BURCHFIELD PENNEY ART CENTER: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- ff. COMM. 11M-5 (2009)
MUSICAL FARE: “Letter Thanking Legislature for its Support of Musical Fare Theatre and Other Organizations in its 2009 Budget”
(6-0)
- gg. COMM. 12M-7 (2009)
BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)

- hh. COMM. 12M-14 (2009)
ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- ii. COMM. 12M-15 (2009)
ARTS IN EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF WNY: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- jj. COMM. 12M-16 (2009)
BUFFALO INNER CITY BALLET: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- kk. COMM. 12M-17 (2009)
BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- ll. COMM. 12M-18 (2009)
BUFFALO TRANSPORTATION/PIERCE-ARROW MUSEUM: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- mm. COMM. 12M-19 (2009)
MARTIN HOUSE RESTORATION CORPORATION: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- nn. COMM. 12M-20 (2009)
HALLWAYS: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- oo. COMM. 12M-21 (2009)
MUSICAL THEATRE: “Legislature Budget Accountability Act Report”
(6-0)
- pp. COMM. 17D-27 (2009)
EC HISTORIAN: “Progress Report for Projects Completed or In-Progress - 8/15/09”
(6-0)

- qq. COMM. 17M-2 (2009)
BUFFALO & EC PUBLIC LIBRARY: “Agenda Items for Meeting Held 7/16/09”
(6-0)
2. INTRO 14-1 (2009)
GRANT **AS AMENDED**
WHEREAS, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] is available to prospective college students across the United States in order to provide every American the chance to attend college; and
- WHEREAS, many students coming from middle and lower class families are limited in their choice of school and even their chance to receive a college degree due to the financial burden of tuition; and
- WHEREAS, the cost of attending a two or four-year school has steadily increased in previous years, a trend that will continue into the future; and
- WHEREAS, in order to receive their assistance, students must fill out a FAFSA application every year, which contains over 150 questions, and has been referred to as an “endurance test” more than anything; and
- WHEREAS, the FAFSA form has become a nightmare for both parents and students, many of which give up on the application without even finishing it; and
- WHEREAS, in 2004, The American Council on Education reported that an estimated 1.5 million students would have received grants had they applied for them; and
- WHEREAS, even though millions of students submit a FAFSA every year, there are still many more who could be receiving government aid, signaling that change and reform is needed in this antiquated process; and
- WHEREAS, our own community college, ECC, concurs that feedback obtained from students validates President Obama’s contention that completing the existing FAFSA application is overly complex and burdensome to many families who seek access to higher education and the employment opportunities that arise from higher education; and
- WHEREAS, President Obama and his administration wish to simplify this form, making it more user-friendly so that every student has an equal opportunity to attend the college they would like; and

WHEREAS, taking the initiative in making higher education more accessible, the Obama Administration wants to implement three steps to improve the FAFSA process, including shortened, streamlined online applications, a Web application to facilitate easy access to families' tax data from the IRS, and asking Congress to remove more than half of the questions on the form; and

WHEREAS, these reforms would provide grant money to not only those wishing to attend college in the future, but those currently attending who have failed to complete the lengthy application in past years; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration's use of FAFSA as a stepping stone to reforms in education is a welcome start for parents and students alike, who can now receive grants and financial aid with much greater ease, thereby realizing the dream of a higher education and college degree.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature go on record in support of President Obama and his administration in their efforts to restructure the FAFSA process, giving the opportunity of higher education to all prospective students, regardless of their economic status; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body echo the need for the Obama Administration's goals and reforms so that the American ideals of freedom, opportunity and equality resound throughout our education system, an imperative for the future of this great nation.

(6-0)

**BETTY JEAN GRANT
CHAIR**