The High Road Runs Through the City
Cornell ILR Summer Fellowships
Buffalo, NY | Summer 2014
I was a long time coming
I'll be a long time gone
you've got your whole life to do something
and that's not very long
so why don't you give me a call
when you're willing to fight
for what you think is real
for what you think is right

“Willing To Fight”
Ani DiFranco
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The High Road Runs Through the City summer fellowships give ILR students a unique opportunity to explore the rich variety of creative organizations and enterprises that are transforming Greater Buffalo from rust belt to a new, green, high road economy.

Since 2009, 85 ILR students have been awarded fellowships in applied research, active learning and service in community-based economic development in Buffalo. Every year is unique as the High Road is a journey through current events, new development projects, evolving challenges, and everyday innovation and change. Students' projects are coordinated through the Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), a community-based think tank with a growing number of over 160 richly networked partners, each of which is eligible to apply for a High Road Fellow. Students work at their individual placements from Monday through Thursday and then participate as a group in Friday activities including speakers, tours and interactive discussions on some of the most pressing economic and community development issues in the region.

High Roaders, as the student fellows have come to be called, explore the city through the lens of the public good. Their work and study reveal the linkages between the worlds of policy and practice, the profit and nonprofit sectors of the economy, and academia and the "real" world. They meet with public officials, testify in public hearings, write for online publications, speak with the press, participate in civic events and live democracy in action.

The High Road thrives on collaboration, and we are grateful for support from Dean Harry C. Katz, ILR faculty and staff, and for assistance from Cornell's Center for Community Engaged Learning and Research.
“ILR speaks often about its community, but it wasn’t until now that I could really understand what the school meant: a group of students all stumbling towards the same goal with the same core values and beliefs and heart.

I remember struggling in the beginning of the summer with my career dreams and aspirations.

I wanted to be a poet, an artist living off of the beauty in the world, a traveler and visitor of beautiful countries and places, an inspiration to students and to readers, an owner of a café-gallery-bookstore-wine bar.

Being an unconventional ILRie, I was caught between doing what I should do (doing what most other ILR students did) and doing what I wanted to.

I started my summer firmly thinking that those dreams would be pushed to the side, held in the back of mind until further notice, until I could find a job to fund such living.

When I mentioned this to the fellows, I heard a resounding: ‘Just do it.’ Don’t stop yourself. Do what you love. “

Subin Chung ‘15, 2014 High Road Fellow

2014 High Road Fellows
Amber is a rock star. She created a report that we have wanted to complete for a while, however with a small staff it’s hard to go to far above and beyond our responsibilities. This report will inject a human element to our work and that is important to our story.

Jeff Conrad, Western New York Regional Director for CEO

Amber’s Work Highlights:

- Compiled a report that assesses the impact of CEO programming on the lives of its clients in Buffalo including statistics, stories of participants, and records of CEO clients’ accomplishments in employment and life transitions.
- Helped teach orientation classes to new CEO clients about the CEO model as well as a two weekly classes focused specifically on interviewing skills. One was targeted at older CEO participants while one focused on the needs of youth, ages 18-24.
- Coached individual CEO clients by conducting mock-interviews and assisting with resume preparation.

“From a young age I have always wanted to be an attorney. My work at CEO confirmed my desire to attend law school and fight for young, minority, low-income citizens who too often are the make-up of disenfranchised groups. My placement at CEO exceeded my expectations. Not only did I get to put together a report, I also got the chance to job develop directly with participants.”

from Amber’s program evaluation
Alex was a real pleasure to have at the Law Center. He was always looking to learn more about the foreclosure process. He was a keen observer and did an excellent job at appropriately using testimonials and client voices to illustrate the data he produced.”

Kate Lockhart, Western New York Law Center Paralegal
Subin was a High Road leader this summer. She took every opportunity to explore her adopted home for the summer and is a great ambassador for the program. Her work on language access advocacy is achieving real progress. Subins’s contributions to the fellowship and to PPG are lasting.”

Megan Connelly, Partnership for the Public Good Director of Policy Advancement

Subin’s Work Highlights:

- Staffed a collaborative advocacy group working to craft and implement Limited English Proficiency plans for the City and County to improve language access to government services for Buffalo’s growing immigrant and refugee population.
- Created cultural fact sheets for five of the most prevalent refugee groups that have resettled in the region.
- Created marketing and program materials for PPG’s annual fundraiser, Shakespearean Idol, including selecting passages for contestants to perform and writing up blurbs to provide the audience context for each performance.

“It isn’t the affirmation of my dreams that makes me call my colleagues a community. It is the fact that they turned those words of encouragement into tangible steps. We visited museums and art galleries, stopped by small non-profits that worked with artists, took time to reflect on our dreams and what we could do to turn them into reality.”

from Subin’s blog post

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The Partnership for the Public Good is a “think and do tank” providing action-oriented research, policy development and advocacy support to over 160 partner organizations who share a community oriented vision of a revitalized Greater Buffalo. PPG promotes civic involvement so citizens and the nonprofit community have stronger voices in public policy and are better able to promote the public good.
“Having Allison as a Summer Fellow this year made PPG a better organization. She was an enthusiastic presence and her efforts significantly increased the capacity of the Living Wage Commission. We are excited to see her work continued as we build a network of engaged High Road alumni.”

Megan Connelly, PPG and Living Wage Commission Co-chair
Every year we are impressed by the quality of the ILR students we receive. Mike is certainly no exception and has been a tremendous help in all aspects of our operation.”

Mike Galligano, Executive Director of Buffalo CarShare

Mike’s Work Highlights:

- Developed a communications strategy and procedural recommendations for expansion of the car sharing industry to better serve elderly and disabled communities.
- Crafted suggestions to implement and improve CarShare’s marketing and outreach techniques to further expand membership among different populations, including the elderly and disabled communities.
- Initiated partnerships with service providers and peer organizations to collaborate on potential grant funding for CarShare’s expansion of services to better serve the elderly and disabled populations.

“I don’t know if I’ll ever go into the non-profit sector but this summer confirmed that the type of career I have I want to be varied. I don’t want to just be sitting at a desk all day but I want to be out doing things and out talking to people. Making people collaborate and advancing the organizations goals. The program was great. It was a packed summer, but an awesome one, and I learned a lot.”

from Mike’s program evaluation
Jonathan Goldstein ‘17

“My work as a Fellow at the Learning Disabilities Association has been one of the most educational experiences I have ever engaged in. I am able to directly interact with the individuals that our vocational staff works with on a regular basis, and am exposed to a diverse array of material at work. I was able to participate in several executive management meetings and contribute a great deal to the development of LDA’s future programming and events.”

from Jonathan’s reflection journal

“Jonathan is a tremendous asset to us. He brings so much knowledge to the table during meetings and discussions, and is continuously showing eagerness to learn more. He has assisted greatly in educating our staff about recent executive orders relating to our industry and formulated a corresponding educational presentation to share with the community.”

Parrish Gibbons, Director of Community Outreach for LDA of WNY

Jonathan’s Work Highlights:

- Recruited and engaged potential employers to attend LDA’s WNY Business Mingle, a networking luncheon to educate local business owners, managers and HR staff on the benefits of hiring individuals with learning disabilities.
- Tracked and recorded newly acquired employer connections to build relations over the summer and for future use by LDA of WNY.
- Compiled and contacted a list of federal contractors in Western New York who are actively seeking to hire individuals with disabilities in order to comply with a new executive order issued earlier this year that federal contractors must ensure that at least seven percent of their workforce consisting of workers with disabilities.

The Learning Disabilities Association of WNY is a parent and client led, professionally managed organization that assists individuals in gaining as much independence as their abilities allow. LDA provides an array of supports to individuals with learning disabilities, neurological impairments and other such disabilities. LDA programming includes service coordination.
Corben brought great energy and intelligence to his work with PUSH Buffalo this summer. His work to organize and analyze the community planning work that PUSH has undertaken in 2014 has been a great help to our efforts to engage residents in critical decisions about the development of their community.”

Jenifer Kaminsky, Buffalo Neighborhood Stabilization Company Housing Director

Corben’s Work Highlights:

- Canvassed neighborhoods to engage community members on their visions regarding a vacant school reuse project on Buffalo’s West side. Compiled and analyzed responses to find trends and common interest among responses.
- Presented these findings to the greater community at a public meeting and educated attendees about the public’s role and rights throughout this development process.
- Supported campaigns regarding expansion of a local park and a responsible banking ordinance for the City of Buffalo.

“I have been impressed with the organization I am working for, People United for Sustainable Housing, and their commitment to listening to the community they’re serving. One does not have to spend very long working with PUSH to understand that the most important consideration in their decision making process is the wants and desires of the people. In discussing Buffalo’s West Side with PUSH staffers, one thing that immediately becomes clear is their great optimism and deep commitment to improving the neighborhood.”

from Corben’s reflection journal
Kristen's Work Highlights:

- Mentored teens with MAPs Growing Green youth-based entrepreneurial education program. Created and assisted with teaching lesson plans on civic engagement and leadership for the youth that MAP serves.
- Coordinated events to promote healthy lifestyle and eating habits among youth participating in the MAP summer program.
- Organized and represented MAP at meetings for the Growing Working Group for the WNY Environmental Alliance which works to strengthen and support the role of food and agriculture in the community by securing vacant urban land for farming and community gardening, while educating the broader community on these issues.

"Through my opportunity, I am able to experience work that I love every day in a workspace that encourages creativity, team building, and camaraderie. The culture is all-inclusive, fun, and I've learned the value of making work personal. The ILR program allowed me to apply organizational behavior concepts and management skills to my lessons and responsibilities, giving me more autonomy in my activities. My High Road experience will be one that I will never forget."

from Kristen's blog post

"Kristen has an amazingly high energy level. The youth in our program really connected with her. The energy she brought was matched her intelligence and thoughtfulness to develop and implement an interactive citizenship curriculum for her project. All the feedback has been incredibly positive."

Rebekah Williams, Youth Education Director at Massachusetts Avenue Project
“The work Lowell has completed has helped extend ASI’s capacity by filling in where needed and advancing several projects including the economic impact study, making huge strides in the preparation and planning of our first large-scale fundraiser, taking initiative and advancement with the Arts Access program, among others. Honestly, his work has been instrumental for us.”

Jennifer Swan, Associate Director for ASI of WNY

Lowell’s Work Highlights:

- Analyzed two separate studies done on the economic impact of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations by comparing differences in their methodology and data collection, noting similarities, and crafting suggestions for further research.
- Designed outreach to promote ASI’s program, Arts Access, which gives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients free tickets to arts and cultural venues throughout the region. Mapped the frequency of venues that were attended as well as the geography of people who utilized the service to enhance future offerings of the program.
- Helped plan and run ASI’s inaugural Spark Awards, which recognized local artists and also served as a fundraiser for the organization.

“Up to now, I never really thought of the nonprofit sector as an economically viable career option for me. However, looking past finances, I now have a greater sense of how this type of work is internally satisfying. I became very invested in Arts Access and enjoyed all my work with that program. I can easily see myself working on something similar in the future. High Roads has shown me another option that I now can more seriously consider.”

from Lowell’s program evaluation
Marc was a great addition to the Open Buffalo Innovation Lab this summer. A bright and personable student, he produced very thoughtful briefs on data pertaining to education and housing locally. He also continued his work post-fellowship on a research directory which is highly valuable to our initiative.

Sam Magavern, Open Buffalo Innovation Lab Director

Marc’s Work Highlights:

- Researched and wrote a policy brief on the New York Power Authority’s effectiveness as New York State’s public power authority and one of its principal economic development agencies.
- Created a directory of community-engaged scholars at local colleges and universities to better connect community organizations and academics in collaboration on pressing issues in the local region.
- Produced Buffalo Brief fact sheets presenting local data about issues of education and housing.

“Through this experience I can see what working in the field of economic development policy is like. It can be a struggle to confirm my hypotheses or find flaws in the current systems, but I enjoy the work over all because I know that my work will inform other community-minded individuals in their own projects. Economic development helps all of society if done right, in the high road economic development model for example, and it gives my work meaning. I’m excited for what comes next.”

from Marc’s blog post
Jessica has an incredibly sophisticated skill set for analysis. She did a fantastic job with her research and even taught us a few things. She was a great asset to the Law Center over the summer.”

Kate Lockhart, Western New York Law Center Paralegal

Jessica’s Work Highlights:

- Compiled and analyzed data for a project addressing the foreclosure process for homeowners that evaluated the effectiveness of settlement conferences in preventing foreclosures.

- Determined relationship between attending settlement conferences and likelihood of avoiding foreclosure. Drafted findings into a report to show how the foreclosure settlement conference process helps protect people in WNY who are in jeopardy of losing their homes.

“The nature of this work is interesting because the individual cases have stories behind them, and finding the information to determine what happened is like solving a puzzle. There is a clear qualitative component to this work, which is different than many other data analysis projects I have worked on in the past. Considering mortgage foreclosure rates in Erie County are among the highest in the state, I find this work as practical as it is eye opening.”

from Jessica’s blog post
WNY Council on Occupational Safety and Health
Worker Center
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www.wnycosh.org

WNYCOSH is a nonprofit membership organization established in 1979 by labor unions, labor educators, and health professionals, to provide educational and technical assistance to workers on occupational safety and health. It coordinates the new Worker Center in Buffalo, founded to address the needs of immigrant/refugee workers, unemployed or underemployed youth, and low-wage workers in many sectors.

Lelenia’s Work Highlights:

- Coordinated community education programs on issues of wage theft. Researched examples of wage theft in temporary employment agencies and crafted a communications and outreach strategy to address this problem. Drafted a comprehensive letter to employers that explained the law and an informational flyer for employees explaining their rights.
- Taught workers’ rights training covering wages and hours, health and safety, and discrimination. Tailored presentations to different audiences such as immigrants and refugees.
- Traveled to Albany to rally in support of a higher statewide minimum wage and met with elected officials on this issue.

“This summer gave me a completely new perception of Buffalo. We learned right away that it faces challenges such as racial segregation, poverty, and a large immigrant population. However, I also learned that it is a developing city, with up-and-coming cultural, artistic, and business centers. This summer definitely helped frame my career choices. I found out that I love teaching adults and raising awareness surrounding important laws, which I would never have explored if not for this experience. Now I think that I may pursue it professionally.”

from Lelenia’s program evaluation

“Lelenia was a total delight to have at WNYCOSH with the Worker Center. She is incredibly efficient and totally engaged in her work. She has challenged herself and those around her by presenting her own ideas and questions to hone each project or event to the highest level of professionalism.”

Liz Smith, Project Organizer for the WNYCOSH Worker Center
“More than anything, Damian struck us as professional and mature beyond his years- he accepted his assignment with carefully prepared questions and a thoroughness that we hadn’t expected from a Freshman undergrad. Damian’s finished project was nothing-less than publishable, graduate-level work! We are utilizing his findings in grant requests and presentations, and could not have hoped for something so applicable and of such high quality!”

Eve Wilson, Employment Specialist with the International Institute of Buffalo

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Damian O’Sullivan ‘17

“The High Road Fellowship is a program well suited to an ILR education and provides us with opportunity to contribute to a nonprofit organization that we select because it has meaning to us. The exposure to the economic development efforts of the city too has proven to be a positive experience.”

from Damian’s blog post
The Service Collaborative of Western New York (TSCWNY) creates opportunities for all individuals to serve their communities, challenging them to turn their ideals into action and their passion into positive change. As an independent non-profit organization, TSCWNY has been recognized as a community leader with the capacity to identify/address community needs through direct service.

Emali’s Work Highlights:

- Conducted outreach by canvassing neighborhoods and attending festivals and public events to survey and organize low-income community members to form the membership base for a low-income credit union, Good Neighbors Federal Credit Union (GNFCU).
- Represented GNFCU at meetings to raise awareness of the initiative as well as the community need it seeks to address—the lack of affordable community banking on Buffalo’s West Side.
- Created and ran social media campaigns to raise awareness about the credit union and market responsible personal finance practices.

“I’m impressed at the optimism people seem to have when it comes to the revitalization of Buffalo. Then again, if you look around there is no reason not to be optimistic. There are cranes downtown. The city is being rebuilt. These things make revitalization tangible; they swell the sense of community. I’ve found that there is a strong sense of community in Buffalo.”

from Emali’s reflection journal

“We are very appreciative of Emali’s contributions, both to TSCWNY and especially to GNFCU. Her work has been integral to broadening the base and support for the GNFCU. Emali’s passion for social justice is clearly evident in her work and it has been a pleasure to have her work with us this summer.”

Steve Deisig, Director of VISTA and Opportunity Corps for TSCWNY
"We highly value Breanna’s contributions. Breanna is a fresh set of eyes to how we are handling human resources policies and procedures and is willing to share her thoughts with me after meetings or when reviewing policies."

Greg Altman, Director of Finance & Operations at HSCS

Breanna Ross ‘17

Breanna’s Work Highlights:

- Conducted a comprehensive research project on labor policies and best practices in human resources nationally to assist the leaders of the Health Science Charter School in cultivating an elite work environment for the school.
- Developed Board Policy recommendations and supporting administrative procedures to implement these best practices with the school.

“My work experience definitely enhanced my researching and writing skills as well as gave me my first opportunity to work on policy writing. I also developed some soft skills like people skills and networking and what it is like to work in an office setting. The High Roads experience as a whole really opened me up to thinking about a career in social justice and community based work. At my internship I also got the chance to talk with many HR professionals who gave me great insights into that field. Overall the fellowship was a great experience that help me grow and think about my future in a more informed way.”

from Breanna’s program evaluation
The Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) is a college access and workforce development program serving students annually in rural, urban, and suburban areas of New York State. Locally, LPP serves students within the Buffalo Public School District who are at risk for dropping out of school. LPP provides these students with mentoring, tutoring, and college readiness activities. LPP also works in collaboration with the Buffalo Employment Training Center to provide high school students paid internships during a Workforce Development Summer Program.

Tonya’s Work Highlights:

- Crafted a survey and conducted outreach to assess the impact that Liberty Partnership has on its program participants.
- Helped design a curriculum to teach youth soft skills, such as interview skills, proper etiquette, computer skills and professional writing.
- Worked to initiate partnerships with local businesses in hopes they will agree to hire those youth that successfully complete program.

“Tonya’s work is extremely valuable, as it will inform programming for Liberty students in the upcoming school year and beyond. Her outreach efforts to Liberty alumni have been invaluable in assessing the impact our programming has had on former participants. She is also meeting with local stakeholder to discuss workforce development, employer needs, training models and making a strategic effort to align our programming with the needs of local employers.”

Lauren Imbriano-Undercoffer, Liberty Partnership

“I think that after participating in the fellowship that I might consider getting to know the non-profit world a bit more. All of the people I interacted with are very passionate about their work and they have inspired me to find something that I am passionate about and work toward it as well. If anything they have given me hope that it is possible to make a good living and love your job at the same time.”

from Tonya’s program evaluation
Zakiya was the first student we’ve had who developed multimedia as an advocacy tool. She was a sponge and really took advantage of every learning opportunity over the summer. Her passion for this work is unmistakable.

Liz Smith, Project Organizer for the WNYCOSH Worker Center

Zakiya Williams Wells ‘17

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WNYCOSH is a nonprofit membership organization established in 1979 by labor unions, labor educators, and health professionals, to provide educational and technical assistance to workers on occupational safety and health. It coordinates the new Worker Center in Buffalo, founded to address the needs of immigrant/refugee workers, unemployed or underemployed youth, and low-wage workers in many sectors.

Zakiya’s Work Highlights:

- Supported a campaign to reach, assist and empower workers in the temporary and low-wage workforce. Participated in rallies and actions to raise awareness of workers’ rights issues. Performed organizing duties and created targeted materials.
- Created a video on wage theft to educate the general public about the issue and to be used as a training tool for advocates, employers and employees.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed High Road. It was exhausting at times but the work I feel really and truly impacted the people around me. Although this impact is fairly micro in scale, in sum the effects will always be macro. The more people we educate, the more information we disseminate into these communities, the more we will see communities empowered to change their situations, the more we can combat the structures in place and seek out healthy and fulfilling lives in whatever form that may manifest.”

from Zakiya’s reflection journal
International Institute of Buffalo
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Since 1918, the International Institute of Buffalo has assisted immigrants, refugees, and others who face linguistic and cultural barriers to become self-sufficient, active members of our community. Today, the Institute serves as a dynamic international center, providing critical services to refugees and immigrants and promoting global understanding and connections in WNY.

Josh’s Work Highlights:

- Evaluated the effect of the Institute’s Friends and Mentorship program in easing clients’ transitions to the WNY community. Interviewed past participants and compared the initiative among national best practices.
- Developed a comprehensive plan for an enhanced mentorship program for refugees and immigrants in Buffalo. Made recommendations and researched funding opportunities as well.
- Taught ESL classes and basic skills to clients of the International Institute.

“There is a meaning to work that I do not think exists in the same way in private sector positions. I thought that I wanted to work with nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations after graduating but I did not have any nonprofit experience before this summer. This summer at IIB has reinforced that desire; I expect to work at nonprofit in the future.”

from Josh’s blog post

“Joshua was a bundle of energy and a force to be reckoned with! His main assignment to create a business plan/strategy for a Professional Immigrant Mentoring program in was completed with half his session to go - a clear testimony of his motivation, organizational skills, and intelligence. He jumped into other office duties with equal vigor, from helping non-English speaking clients learn the bus to their new job, to helping us remodel our client database. Ultimately, Josh was a great addition to our team and his assistance invaluable.”

Eve Wilson, Employment Specialist with the International Institute of Buffalo
Faculty and Staff Profiles

Lou Jean Fleron  
*High Road Fellowship Director*

Now ILR emeritus, Lou Jean directs the High Road program. A Cornell ILR Extension faculty member since 1977, her research and teaching areas are public economic policy, industry and community development, and labor management relations. She served as director of ILR Western Region and is the author of studies on regional economic development, including *Champions @ Work: Employment, Workplace Practices and Labor-Management Relations in Western New York,* and *Buffalo Child Care Means Business.* Prior to working at ILR, she taught political science at SUNY Buffalo and the University of Kentucky. Lou Jean was chair of Buffalo Living Wage Commission from 2003 to 2010 and is currently co-director of the Partnership for the Public Good.

Megan Connelly  
*High Road Fellowship Associate Director*

Megan serves a dual role as Associate Director for the High Road Fellowship Program as well as Director of Policy Advancement for the Partnership for the Public Good. Admitted to practice in New York, Megan is a graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School. She previously worked at Neighborhood Legal Services on the Homeless Task Force in Buffalo, at the Youth Justice Project in South Bend, Indiana, and for the University at Buffalo’s Office of Civic Engagement and the Regional Institute. She believes that her own service experiences as an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame helped to shape her values, interests and ultimately, her career path and she likes to provide similar transformative opportunities for students to engage with and learn from the community.

Sam Magavern  
*Adjunct Faculty, Cornell ILR*

Sam is adjunct faculty of Cornell ILR, also teaches at the University at Buffalo Law School. He joined the clinical law faculty in 2007 after a year as compliance coordinator for the City of Buffalo Living Wage Commission. His classes focus on the policy aspects of affordable housing and community economic development and offer students experience in action-oriented research and policy advocacy. He practiced for twelve years with the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, specializing in housing litigation, community legal education, and public policy advocacy. Sam is currently co-director of the Partnership for the Public Good. He grew up in Buffalo and graduated from Harvard College and UCLA Law School. When not teaching, he writes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

Ron Applegate  
*Lecturer, Cornell ILR*

An economic and labor historian, Ron (pictured, top left) is a lecturer at Cornell ILR in the Department of Labor Relations, Law and History. Previously, he devoted two decades to community and labor organizing. He also coordinated community-based economic development programs for Over-the-Rhine Housing Network in Cincinnati, Ohio and Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell, Massachusetts. His current teaching and research on the history of U.S. political economy focuses on collective action to increase public control over economic development.
Fellowship Fridays & Forums
The city of Buffalo is an ideal living laboratory. It is home to the very first ILR extension office, which opened in 1946. Buffalo is a culturally rich city with vast experiences to offer such as museums, historic architecture, theater, music, festivals, food, and sporting events. Every Friday the students as a group are immersed in the city life of Buffalo, with neighborhood walking tours, field trips and cultural experiences; meetings with guest experts and civic leaders; and sharing their week-in-review project experiences and research.

Friday, June 6
What the New Urbanism is Missing: Hidden Assets and the High Price of Inequality
A Vision for Buffalo’s Economic Future
Rev. Darius Pridgen, Buffalo Common Council President
Dottie Gallagher-Cohen, President and CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Walking Tour of African American Heritage Corridor and East Side
George Arthur, Michigan Street Historic Preservation Corporation
Walking Tour of Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus

Friday, June 13
Jobs and Workers: An Industrial Strength Opportunity
Panel: Worker Centers: Organizing Communities at the Edge of the Dream
Peter DeJesus, WNY Area Labor Federation
Erin Hatton, Professor of Sociology, UB
Liz Smith, WNY Worker Center
Eve Williams, International Institute of Buffalo
Buffalo Briefs: An Historical Perspective of the WNY Labor Movement
Lou Jean Fleron, Cornell ILR
Tour of Silo City

Friday, June 20
New Directions for Economic Development
Innovation and Entrepreneurism
Jack McGowan, Insyte Consulting and WNY Venture Association/Buffalo Angels
Paul Tesluk, Professor of Organizational Behavior, UB School of Management
Larkinville/Filling Station with Howard Zemsky, Regional Economic Development Council
Tour: City Hall
Meet with Brendan Mehaffy, Executive Director, City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning
Friday, June 27
City Life and the Metro Economy
The Arts and Economic Development
   Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Ujima Theatre
   Mike LoCurto, Buffalo Common Council
   Jax DeLuca, Squeaky Wheel
The Public Art Works Initiative of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery
   Monica Angle and Aaron Ott, Erie County & Albright-Knox Public Arts Project
   Dr. Joe Lin-Hill, Deputy Director, Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Tours:
   Albright Knox Art Gallery
   Darwin Martin House

Friday, July 4
Optional Group Holiday Celebrations

Friday, July 11
Empowered Neighborhoods
   Change at the Grassroots: Enterprises, Employment, Sustainability
      Franchelle Hart, Executive Director, Open Buffalo
      Richard Lipsitz, President, WNY Area Labor Federation
   West Side Bazaar with Professor Gary Welborn, Buffalo State College
   Block by Block Neighborhood Redevelopment: the Citizens Model
   Green Development Zone Tour

Friday, July 18
Charting a Course: Higher Education and Higher Careers
   Program in review with Harry Katz, Dean, Cornell ILR School
   The Regional Labor Market and Job Polarization
      Richard Deitz, Senior Economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York
   Lunch with the High Road Advisory Committee
   Narrated Sightseeing Cruise on the Miss Buffalo

Wednesday, July 23
Picnic in Eden

Friday, July 25
Final Presentations
Corben presents his findings at the PUSH monthly meeting

Emani bringing GNFCU to the airwaves

Fellows meeting with Howard Zemsky, co-chair of the Regional Economic Development Council

Fellows with George Scott of the Colored Musicians Club

Fellows at Silo City

Group work on Fridays includes participatory discussions with local experts.
We spend all this time,
Wondering who exactly is they
Who exactly am I

Resisting arbitrary power
Believing we’ll win if we try

Smiling at all these Cranes in the Sky
Living in a fallen city
Hoping all boats will still rise

Seeing collaboration as power to uncover the lies
We have the privilege to strive
To ensure that our fellow man can still thrive

So we stay here, play here, work here
Because we want to end the fear

Spread the information
So our message is clear

Someone once told me about the golden rule
That you should do unto others
As you would have them do unto you
But I’ve also learned those with the gold make the rules

Those with the gold don’t realize that it isn’t resources that give them power

The lazy are many while the hardworking are few
Creating more mouths to feed
More sheep for the slaughter
With no shepherd to lead
Never considering that enough frightened sheep
Can still stampeded

Can demand their right to be human
Their right to be free

So we riot, we rally
We yell, fight, and scream
To reframe the narrative
To achieve what seems like a fantastical dream

Just to prove this isn’t some nefarious scheme

To rob anyone of their will
But to ensure everyone has a fighting shot, even still

His name was Angel
And he had no idea
That he had been robbed of
A thousand dollars in back wages
While on the job

He really wasn’t going to do anything about it

He would have, let it slide
But, he could have used a thousand dollars
Maybe to help put the world on his side

Angel is not alone
In getting robbed blind
By indifferent employers
With no qualms committing such a crime

That’s why we’re here
At least in theory
To help keep these people in check
To remind them that their workers matter
Even if they might look like a dreg

We must co-operate
To fight our invisible oppressors

We must show solidarity
To stop our violent aggressors

We must declare that we will no longer be slaves
That we want participate in this unequal trade

We know our worth

We know our struggle
We know our pain

We know our capacity
our power,

We know our names

This story of revival and triumph
Isn’t just about cranes in the sky
It’s about believing in our humanity
And it will begin with

U.N.I.T.Y.

Zakiya Williams-Wells ‘17