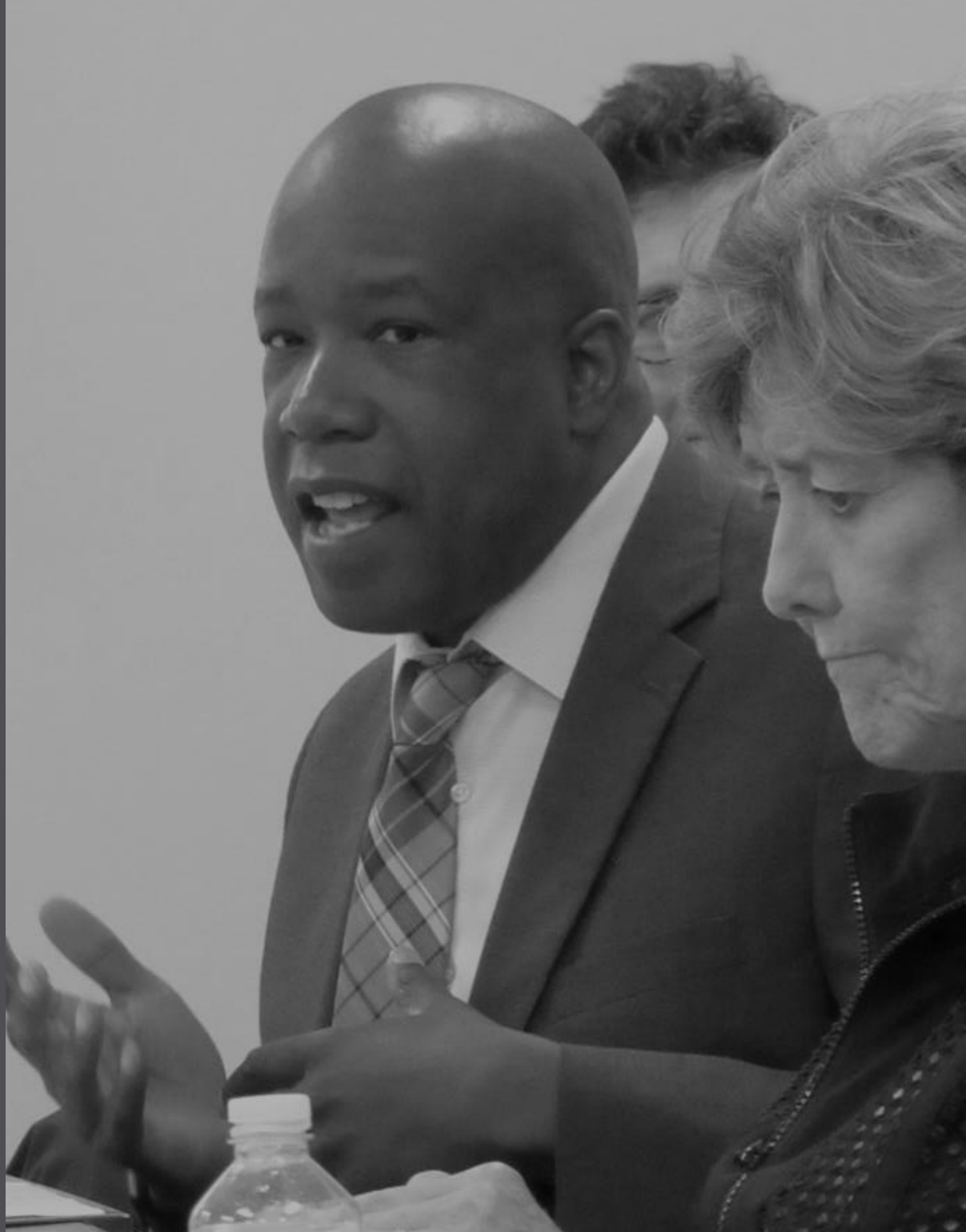


THE WORKER INSTITUTE

ADVANCING WORKER RIGHTS AND COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATION



BUFFALO, NY SINCE THE GREAT RECESSION A WORKSHOP ON ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING IN THE RUST BELT SINCE THE GREAT RECESSION

BY: DINCER AND WHEATON

AUGUST 14-15 2017
CORNELL IN BUFFALO AND UAW LOCAL 774

PROGRAM

DAY 1, AUGUST 14, Cornell in Buffalo

Welcome, Arthur Wheaton, The Worker Institute, Cornell University
09AM-09.10AM

Introduction: The Contours of Economic Development in the Rust Belt since the Great Recession
Evren Dincer, Uludağ University
09.10AM-09.30AM

Session I

Main Trends and Issues of Economic Development in Buffalo 09.30AM-12PM

The Performance of the Buffalo Economy Since the Great Recession
Jaison Abel, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Healing Buffalo's Economy: The Buffalo Billion and Priorities for Economic Development
John Slenker, New York State Department of Labor

General Trends in the Labor Market
Cesar Cabrera, New York State Department of Labor

Labor Market and Challenges for Workforce Development
Heather Gresham, Executive Director, Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Investment Board

Labor's Role in Economic Development and Organizing
Richard Lipsitz Jr., Western New York Area Labor Federation

Economic Development from a Social Justice Perspective
Franchelle C. Hart, Open Buffalo

Lunch Break: 12PM-1PM

Session II

Placing Buffalo in its Geographical and Economic Context: Buffalo as part of New York State and the Rust Belt 1PM-2.45PM

The Role of New York City in the Economy of New York State
James Parrott, Center for New York City Affairs at The New School

Buffalo's Economic Relations with Albany
Bruce Fisher, SUNY Buffalo State

The Role of Community Organizations in Buffalo's Economic Revitalization in a Comparative
Perspective
Ronald Applegate, Cornell University

Buffalo's Economic Development Compared: Buffalo as Part of the Rust Belt
Evren Dincer, Uludağ University

Coffee Break, 2.45PM-3.00PM

Session III
Sectors in Perspective I
3PM-5PM

Buffalo's Housing Market since the Great Recession
Sam Magavern, Partnership for the Public Good

Buffalo's Agricultural Economy since the Great Recession
Diane Held, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

The Finance Sector in Buffalo since the Great Recession
Gary Keith, M&T Bank

Buffalo-Niagara Medical Corridor Experiment: Perspectives on a Project for Economic Revitalization
David Scott, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (TBC)

The Energy Sector, Community Development and Sustainability in Buffalo since the Great Recession
Rahwa Ghirmatzion, PUSH Buffalo

Concluding Remarks and Reflections on Day One
Rosemary Batt, Cornell University

DAY 2, AUGUST 15, UAW Local 774

Session IV, 09AM-12PM
Sectors in Perspective II
Manufacturing and the Auto Industry

A Historical Review of the Auto Industry in the U.S. and Western New York
Art Wheaton, The Worker Institute at Cornell University

Recent Trends in Auto Manufacturing in Western New York
Ian Greer, Cornell University

Canadian Auto Industry since the Great Recession: A Look at Buffalo from the other side of the
Border
Mathieu Dupuis, School of Industrial Relations, University of Montreal

The Reindustrialization of the U.S.: Tonawanda Powertrain since the Great Recession
Evren Dincer, Uludağ University

Auto Manufacturing in Buffalo since the Great Recession: A Managerial Perspective
Steve Finch, Plant Manager, GM Tonawanda Powertrain

Labor Management Relations and Restructuring in Manufacturing since the Great Recession:
A Union Perspective
Wenceslao Valentin III, President, UAW Local 774

For more information please contact:

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Art Wheaton, email: acw18@cornell.edu, call or text (716) 777-0303

Buffalo After the Great Recession: Agriculture



Buffalo: Agriculture

New York State (2012 Census of Agriculture)

Farms

- 35,537 farms
- Over 7 million acres of land (almost 25% land area)
- Average size=202 ac
- 98% family owned

Operators

- 56,000 operators, 61,000 employees (2015-DiNapoli)
- Average age of principal: 57
- Race: 99% white



Buffalo: Agriculture

New York State (2012 Census of Agriculture)

Market Value

- Total ag products sold=\$5.4 billion (23% increase) (followed a 42% increase from 2002 to 2007)
- Milk sold=\$2.4 billion (44% of total)
- Vegetables and fruits sold=\$672 million (12.4% of total)



Buffalo: Agriculture

Erie County (2012 Census of Agriculture)

Farms

- 1,044 farms
- 142,679 acres of land (approx. 21% land area)
- Average size=137 acres
- 84% have market sales under \$100,000; 5% have market sales over \$500,000

Operators

- 1044 operators
- Average age of principal: 57.5
- Race: 99% white



Buffalo: Agriculture

Erie County (2012 Census of Agriculture)

Market Value

- Total ag products sold=\$133.5 million (14% increase)
(followed a 27% increase from 2002 to 2007)
- Milk sold=\$50 million (37% of total)
- Vegetables sold=\$11.8 million (9% of total)
- Nursery, greenhouse products sold=\$28.8 million (22%)



Buffalo: Agriculture

Erie County

Labor

- Vegetable: migrant, H2A, local
 - Sample wage: \$12.38/hour plus housing

- Dairy: migrant, local
 - Sample wage:
 - milking=\$10-13/hour plus housing
 - General=\$12-18/hour
 - Skilled=\$18-22
 - Managerial=\$1000-1500/week



Buffalo: Agriculture

Western New York

Wyoming County

- top dairy producing county in the state and in top 50 dairy counties nationally
- #1 in state for total ag sales

Genesee County

- #4 in state for total ag sales

Chautauqua County

- top grape producing county in the state

Niagara County

- fruits, vegetables, dairy



Buffalo: Agriculture

City of Buffalo

Urban Ag History in Buffalo

- MAP, Wilson Street Farm, Farmer Pirates

Green Code Market Gardens

- distinguished by sale vs a community garden
- allowed in specified zones
- 1 permit to date; previously licensed as stationary peddler if sold at a farm stand



Buffalo: Agriculture

Agriculture Trends

General

- Loss of export markets, loss of off farm jobs (income & benefits)
- Increasing farm size, loss of farmland, labor
- Aging farm owners – need for transition assistance

Erie County/City of Buffalo

- Urban edge: direct market farms – CSAs, farmers markets, restaurants
- Examples: Native Offerings, Promised Land CSA, Plato Dale Farm, Root Down Farm, Providence Creek Farm, Groundwork Market Garden



Buffalo: Agriculture

NYS Laws and Policies

Constitution

- Policy to encourage the development and improvement of agricultural lands for the production of food and agricultural products (1970)

Agriculture and Markets Law

- Ag Districts Law to implement ag districts and 'right to farm' protections (1971)
- Ag Protection Act to enhance economic viability of agriculture (1992)

Governor's Initiatives

- Yogurt Summit (2012)
- On Farm Brewery Law (2013)
- Industrial Hemp (2017)



Buffalo: Agriculture

Erie County and Buffalo Laws and Policies

Erie County Ag and Farmland Protection Plan

- improve farm viability by protecting farmland, assisting a next generation of farmers, and enacting policies that support those goals (2009)

Food Policy Council of Buffalo and Erie County

- advise local government about food system policies (2013)

Buffalo Green Code Unified Development Ordinance

- land use plan and zoning (2017)



Buffalo: Agriculture

Boosting the Local Ag Economy

Food Hub: Eden Valley Growers

- Aggregation, distribution, marketing for multiple local farms

Buffalo Farm to School: Buffalo Public School District

- Connects schools & farms to improve student nutrition and support local farmers and food producers

Double Up Food Bucks: Field and Fork Network

- Spend \$10 of SNAP dollars at participating farmers markets and receive additional \$10 to purchase local fruits and vegetables



Buffalo: Agriculture



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension, Erie County