Higher Education Connections

A Summary of Survey Results

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Presented to the Western New York Consortium of Higher Education

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Regional Institute
University at Buffalo The State University of New York
In what ways do Western New York’s colleges and universities work together to attract local high school students, meet their academic interests, arm them with the education and training sought by local businesses and enhance their quality of life in the region?

In an effort to shed light on these issues, the Regional Institute surveyed the 22 members of the Western New York Consortium of Higher Education (WNYCHE).*

The survey solicited information on four types of connections:

(1) Academic programs offered jointly with another institution of higher education

(2) Formal connections or agreements with area high schools

(3) Formal connections or agreements with area businesses

(4) Formal community-focused connections or partnerships

Findings suggest that these four types of connections exist between and among members. Although member-to-member academic connections represent the largest area in which WNYCHE members collaborate regionally, few member-to-member connections exist with regional businesses, high schools and the community. Additionally, the WNYCHE has not engaged in any consortium-wide initiatives outside the academic realm.

Additionally, although many WNYCHE members reported multiple connections across academic, business, high school and community sectors, survey responses suggest that these are representative of a range of connections and not an exhaustive list. Thus, the following summaries should be read as establishing a baseline of connections and partnerships within Western New York’s higher education industry.

The following pages highlight the range of connections and partnerships identified by survey respondents. These data will help WNYCHE members enhance existing connections and target potential opportunities for future collaboration.

*As of this printing, 21 members completed and returned the survey, representing a 95% response rate.
Summary of Higher Education Connections

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<th>Connection Type</th>
<th>Consortium Initiatives</th>
<th>Consortium Members with Member-to-Member Connections</th>
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<td>Academic</td>
<td>WNY CHE</td>
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<td>About the member-to-member connections</td>
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<td>- Transfer agreements between community colleges and 4-year schools</td>
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<td>- Program-specific articulation agreements</td>
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<td>Business Sector</td>
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<td>About the member-to-member connections</td>
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<td>- 1 Vocational training</td>
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<td>High School</td>
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<td>About the member-to-member connections</td>
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<td>Community-Focused</td>
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<td>About the member-to-member connections</td>
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Established for approximately 40 years, the WNYCHE is a not-for-profit organization that focuses on issues of common interest.

WNYCHE members have at least one identified academic partnership with another institution of higher education. The mix includes transfer agreements between community colleges and 4-year schools, program-specific articulation agreements, cross course offerings and dual enrollment programs.

WNYCHE members are partnering with at least one other consortium member to offer an academic program.

Transfer agreements between community colleges and 4-year schools: Jamestown Community College has transfer agreements with about three dozen 4-year schools including 11 WNYCHE members.

Program-specific articulation agreement: Trocaire, NCC and Daemen partner to offer students a 1+2+1 Bachelor of Science in Nursing program where students earn an associate’s degree at their choice of 2-year college and a bachelor’s degree from Daemen.

Dual Enrollment: St Bonaventure’s Franciscan Health Care Program partners with several schools, including UB and Daemen to allow exceptional high school seniors to be jointly admitted into St. Bonaventure and a partnering school.

Cross course enrollments: SUNY Empire partners with other SUNY schools to allow students to cross register at other area SUNY institutions.

1 Alfred University
2 Bryant and Stratton College
3 Canisius College
4 Christ the King Seminary
5 Daemen College
6 D’Youville College
7 Erie Community College
8 Genesee Community College
9 Hilbert College
10 Houghton College
11 Jamestown Community College
12 Medaille College
13 Niagara County Community College
14 Niagara University
15 Saint Bonaventure University
16 SUNY College of Technology at Alfred
17 SUNY at Buffalo
18 SUNY College at Buffalo
19 SUNY at Fredonia
20 SUNY Empire State College - Niagara Frontier
21 Trocaire College
22 Villa Maria College Buffalo
CONSORTIUM CONNECTIONS

WNYCHE members have at least one identified business-sector partnership aimed at helping area businesses meet their demand for educated and trained employees. These partnerships range from corporate training programs to small business development to general workforce development agreements with local chambers of commerce and industrial development agencies.

CONSORTIUM MEMBER-TO-MEMBER CONNECTIONS

WNYCHE members are engaged in a business-sector partnership with at least one other consortium member.

CASE STUDY

Educational Opportunity Center
Partnership Mission: to offer Buffalo’s urban community with academic programs leading to higher education and vocational training leading to employment

WNYCHE Partners:
University at Buffalo and Villa Maria
Other Partners:
None reported

1 Alfred University
2 Bryant and Stratton College
3 Canisius College
4 Christ the King Seminary
5 Daemen College
6 D’Youville College
7 Erie Community College
8 Genesee Community College
9 Hilbert College
10 Houghton College
11 Jamestown Community College
12 Medaille College
13 Niagara County Community College
14 Niagara University
15 Saint Bonaventure University
16 SUNY College of Technology at Alfred
17 SUNY at Buffalo
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19 SUNY at Fredonia
20 SUNY Empire State College - Niagara Frontier
21 Trocaire College
22 Villa Maria College Buffalo
High School Connections

TYPES OF CONNECTIONS REPORTED
- College courses to High Schoolers at college
- College courses at High School
- Accept AP
- Grants for HS students
- Recognize GED
- College courses online
- College preparation program
- Admin support to HS
- Agreement with international High Schools
- Other

19 WNYCHE members have at least one identified formal agreement or connection with an area high school. These agreements range from recognizing the GED to accepting AP credit as college credit to teaching college-level courses to high schoolers to providing administrative support at the high-school level for the administration of college grants.

CONSORTIUM MEMBER-TO-MEMBER PARTNERSHIPS
4 WNYCHE members are engaged in a high school partnership with at least one other consortium member.

CASE STUDIES
GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)
Partnership Mission: to increase the number of disadvantaged urban students who are prepared to attend college.

WNYCHE Partners:
Buffalo State, D’Youville, Canisius and Medaille

Other Partners:
Buffalo and Lackawanna city school districts

1 Alfred University
2 Bryant and Stratton College
3 Canisius College
4 Christ the King Seminary
5 Daemen College
6 D’Youville College
7 Erie Community College
8 Genesee Community College
9 Hilbert College
10 Houghton College
11 Jamestown Community College
12 Medaille College
13 Niagara County Community College
14 Niagara University
15 Saint Bonaventure University
16 SUNY College of Technology at Alfred
17 SUNY at Buffalo
18 SUNY College at Buffalo
19 SUNY at Fredonia
20 SUNY Empire State College - Niagara Frontier
21 Trocaire College
22 Villa Maria College Buffalo
Community-Focused Connections

WNYCHE members have at least one identified formal community-focused partnership. These run the gamut from neighborhood task groups to environmental study centers to elder scholars programs to college for kids and YMCA summer camps.

WNYCHE members are engaged in a community-focused partnership with at least one other consortium member.

CASE STUDIES

Western New York Service Learning
Partnership Mission: to match college students seeking hands-on experience with identified community needs.
WNYCHE Partners: Buffalo State, Canisius, Daemen, D’Youville, ECC, Medaille, Niagara University, Trocaire
Other Partners: Dozens of community organizations

Heart Research
Partnership Mission: to study noninvasive imaging techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease.
WNYCHE Partners: Niagara University and University at Buffalo
Other Partners: Heart Center of Niagara at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center and GE Health Care

Medical Research
Partnership Mission: to study chronic and acute wound treatment
WNYCHE Partners: Daemen and University at Buffalo
Other Partners: Roswell Park Cancer Institute
The Regional Institute
University at Buffalo
The State University of New York
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