

WELCOME AND MEET THE STAFF NEWSLETTER

Congratulations on your student's acceptance to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at Buffalo State. EOP was established in 1967 to fulfill New York State's commitment to access to higher education. We combine access, academic support, and supplemental financial assistance to make higher education possible for students who have the potential to succeed, despite limited preparation and financial resources.

EOP is not a financial Aid program. We provide a vehicle for admission to college for those who need it. EOP also provides invaluable counseling and tutoring support services to students whose economic and educational circumstances have already placed them at a disadvantage. EOP provides all participants with a counselor who has the sole responsibility of providing academic and personal support to program students. Additionally, we offer free tutoring and peer mentoring services over and beyond what the campus offers.

The mandatory EOP Virtual Summer Academy is scheduled from Friday, July 9th through Friday August 6th. We will host up to 200 Buffalo State pre-freshmen entering the program Fall 2021. It is designed as the first structured, free academic support experience to assist students and families making the transition from high school level work and expectations, to college level work and expectations. Students are scheduled to complete 2 one-credit courses and one 3-credit course, along with personal development workshops and seminars.

Your student's experience will serve as a virtual introduction to Buffalo State and the Educational Opportunity Program, through academic skills instruction, orientation to academic life, and an introduction to the culture and resources at Buffalo State. While these programs have historically taken place on the campus, Covid-19 has deemed prudent for the 2021 academy to be offered in a remote format.

In addition to professional staff, we hire and train upper-class student leaders as Peer Engagement Mentors, as well as Academic Mentors, who serve as summer academy guides. We ask you to partner with us as we support your student during this challenging yet wonderful time of their life.

Please encourage your student to always check their Buffalo State email, as it is the official form of communication on campus.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does EOP cover all costs? EOP is not a financial aid program, EOP students receive PELL, TAP, EOP Stipend and loans offered for students through financial aid, students may qualify for other first year and community-based scholarships outside of Buffalo State.

Does every student receive a refund? Based on the financial aid received they may receive a refund if the students account has a balance.

Does the Excelsior scholarship cover all costs? EOP students receive TAP so they may not qualify.

Does EOP pay for books and supplies? NO. However, students can use a book deferment only if they have funds remaining in their student account. Funds can then be used to purchase books and supplies from the college bookstore. Students are responsible for books and supplies for course work.

What is FERPA? The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, and affords students certain rights with respect to their educational records. Buffalo State's policy statement regarding FERPA can be found here: <http://bscintra.buffalostate.edu/dops/policysect1/011300.pdf>

Can students work during the Summer Academy?

Please note that students will be participating in courses, meetings, and events throughout the week M-F 9:00 a.m– 5:00 p.m. with breaks in between. They will have homework daily and will not have much time for extra-curricular things during these hours. Students have the opportunity to begin their first semester with a high GPA, if they do well. However, if students do poorly, they will begin their first semester in college on probation and with a financial aid warning.

What You & Your Student Should Expect from College

College work is typically based more on independent study than on lecture. Students need to complete all assignments, virtually attend all classes, read assigned readings and chapters outside of class, take good notes, and participate to be successful.

Attendance is very important! Showing up late to the virtual experience or leaving early also affects attendance. This is a 4-week preparatory program and students should attend all required classes and programs.

A syllabus (or course outline) is provided by each professor for each course. This can help students map out the 4-weeks, as it provides contact information, grading system, and expectations.

What if an extenuating circumstance occurs and my student misses a lot of school? Unfortunately, things like death, illness, etc. do happen. The student should always contact The Instructor and their EOP Counselor to assist them with managing their academic responsibilities during times of extenuating circumstances that affect their ability to participate virtually and complete assignments.

What if a student is not doing well in their classes? Students should seek support from the Academic Mentors and also let their professors and EOP counselor know. Help is available! The sooner we know something is not going well, the more we can do to assist them.

Should you have any questions regarding the Virtual Summer Academy, please feel free to contact your student's assigned counselor who will be happy to assist.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAMPUS LIFE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO VISIT THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT LINKS:

- Educational Opportunity Program:
 - Location: Twin Rise South Wing 710
 - Website: <https://eop.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-4225 or 716-878-4426
 - Fax: 716-878-4080
- Academic Center of Excellence
 - Location: Butler Library, Suite 145
 - Website: <https://eop.buffalostate.edu/academic-center-excellence-ace>
 - Phone: 716-878-6024
 - Email: ace_eop@buffalostate.edu
- Weigel Health Center:
 - Location: Weigel Health Center
 - Website: <https://weigel.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-6711
 - Fax: 716-878-6727
 - Email: weigel@buffalostate.edu
- Counseling Center:
 - Location: Weigel Health Center, 2nd Floor
 - Website: <https://counselingcenter.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-4436
 - Fax: 716-878-3003
- Dean of Students Office:
 - Location: Campbell Student Union 311
 - Website: <https://deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-4618
 - Fax: 716-878-3006
 - Email: deanofstudents@buffalostate.edu

Direct Deposit Forms

Sign up for Direct Deposit by clicking “Direct Deposit Refund Forms” in the link below. You will be able to access the application and find out all required documents needed to enroll in Direct Deposit.

<https://studentaccounts.buffalostate.edu/refund-money-faster>

- Student Conduct and Community Standards
 - Location: Porter Hall 14
 - Website: <https://studentconduct.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-3051
 - Email: studentconduct@buffalostate.edu

- Residence Life & Housing
 - Location: Bengal Hall 118
 - Website: <https://residencelife.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-3000
 - Fax: 716-878-6000
 - Email: reslife@buffalostate.edu
 - Residence Life Resource Page
https://coronavirus.buffalostate.edu/faqs#residence_halls_&_dining

- Student Leadership & Engagement
 - Location: Campbell Student Union 400
 - Website: <https://sle.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-4631
 - Fax: 716-878-5600
 - Email: sle@buffalostate.edu

- Registrar's Office
 - Location: Moot Hall 210
 - Website: <https://registrar.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-4811
 - Fax: 716-878-3419
 - Email: Regofc@buffalostate.edu

- Admissions Office
 - Location: Moot Hall 110
 - Website: <https://admissions.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-4017
 - Fax: 716-878-6100
 - Email: admissions@buffalostate.edu

- Financial Aid
 - Location: Moot Hall 230
 - Website: <https://financialaid.buffalostate.edu/work-study>
 - Phone: 716-878-4902
 - Fax: 716-878-4903
 - Email: finaid@buffalostate.edu

- Student Accounts
 - Location: Moot Hall 260
 - Website: <https://studentaccounts.buffalostate.edu/>
 - Phone: 716-878-4121
 - Fax: 716-878-4063
 - Email: stuaccts@buffalostate.edu

- Career Development Center
 - Location: Cleveland Hall 306
 - Website: <http://cdc.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-5811
 - Fax: 716-878-3152
 - Email: askcdc@buffalostate.edu

- IT Help Desk
 - Location: Bulger Communication 200
 - Website: <https://buffalostate.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/2003/Portal/Home/>
 - Phone: 716-878-4357
 - Email: ithelpdesk@buffalostate.edu

- E.H. Butler Library
 - Location: SUNY Buffalo State
 - Website: <https://library.buffalostate.edu/home>
 - Phone: 716-878-6300
 - Fax: 716-878-3134

- Barnes & Noble @ Buffalo State
 - Location: Campbell Student Union
 - Website: <https://buffalostate.bncollege.com/shop/buffalostate/home>
 - Phone: 716-878-5509

- Dining Services
 - Location: Campbell Student Union
 - Website: <https://www.dineoncampus.com/bsc/>
 - Phone: 716-878-5152

- Student Accessibility
 - Location: SW 120
 - Website: <https://sas.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-4500
 - Fax: 716-878-3804
 - Email: sas@buffalostate.edu

- Athletics
 - Location: Houston Gym 248
 - Website: <https://buffalostateathletics.com/index.aspx>
 - Phone: 716-878-6533
 - Fax: 716-878-3536

- Civic & Community Engagement
 - Location: Twin Rise South Wing 130
 - Website: <http://cce.buffalostate.edu/>
 - Phone: 716-878-3919
 - Email: cce@buffalostate.edu

- University Police
 - Location: Chase Hall 110
 - Website: <https://police.buffalostate.edu>
 - Phone: 716-878-6333
 - Email: police@buffalostate.edu

Coronavirus Information <https://coronavirus.buffalostate.edu/>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM STAFF



Mrs. Shelly Inniss-Jackson
EOP Counselor

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."
-Harriet Tubman



Mrs. Maria Brickhouse
Coordinator, Academic Center for Excellence

"Every morning you have two choices: continue to sleep with your dreams or wake up & chase them."



Mr. Abdi Hajikandi
Assistant Director
Academic Services

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."
-Mahatma Gandhi



Ms. Jocelyn Tejada
EOP Counselor

"If you're always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be."
-Maya Angelou



Mrs. Carole Canastrari
EOP Counselor

"Sometimes the bravest and most important thing you can do is just show up."
-Brene Brown



Mr. Neil O'Donnell
EOP Counselor

"Time, effort and dedication make dreams possible."



Mrs. Erika Mitchell
EOP Counselor

Instead of letting your hardships and failures discourage or exhaust you, let them inspire you. Let them make you even hungrier to succeed.
-Michelle Obama



Mr. Fred Gilbert
EOP Counselor

"Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch."



Mr. Jude Jayatilleke
EOP Counselor

Hard Work, Commitment and Determination will lead to success



Mrs. Ashley Szczesek
Administrative Aide

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."



Mrs. Yanick Jenkins
Director, EOP

*"Started from the bottom, now we're here
Started from the bottom, now my whole team here
Started from the bottom, now we're here"*

SUMMER ACADEMY INSPIRE FACULTY

INS189 Creativity & Success Course Description & Goals:

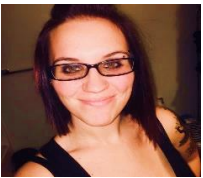
The purpose of the Freshman Summer Academy Creativity & Success course is to empower you with the creative problem-solving skills and the study skills necessary to succeed and achieve at Buffalo State College and beyond. Every student is creative and possesses the ability to develop the problem-solving skills that are essential in personal, academic, and professional endeavors. Through the recognition of your own creative potential, self-reflection, skill development, and planning for your future; it is our mission to empower you to effectively empower yourself on your path to academic and life success.

Purpose & Focus:

It is our belief that creativity is a natural life skill and that every student possesses the ability to be creative. This ability can be strengthened and deliberately developed further through the creativity thinking and creative problem-solving training that we are delivering to you in this course. We believe that every student is a unique and special individual who has different learning preferences and study styles that best enable them to succeed academically.



Najja A. Bouldin is the Founder & Principal at Phoenix Innovation Group, LLC, Buffalo, New York, where he serves customers and community with Innovation Coaching, Leadership & Entrepreneurial Development, as well as Community Engagement. Najja has earned a B.A. in Psychology from University at Buffalo and a Master of Science in Creativity and Change Leadership from the State University of New York, Buffalo State, where he is now an Adjunct Lecturer. He is also a decorated disabled veteran of the United States Air Force. His greatest inspiration for integrity, service and enterprising excellence is being a father to his marvelous son, and steward of culture.



Jessica Cassick is a passionate instructor, and she has been teaching since she graduated from Buffalo State with her master's degree. Creativity and success are her two very favorite things to teach and inspire students about. She launched a publishing company as an independent study during her second semester of the master's program and now runs her company as CEO as a full-time job while she finishes her PhD. As an instructor, she aims to bring a connection between the what ifs of future goals, and the self-agency and self-esteem that shows her students that anything is truly, and most definitely possible.



Michaelene Dawson has been teaching with EOP and the International Center for Studies in Creativity at Buffalo State for the past 11 years. She is a community organizer with the Buffalo Mutual Aid Network, and brings creative thinking into teaching, training, and social work practice. Her mission is to help people harness creativity to bring positive change into their lives and communities. She looks forward to welcoming you to the EOP Summer Academy and your new adventures as creative scholars at Buffalo State.



Jonathan Garra is a parent of four, an aspiring gentleman farmer, and an upper-school history teacher at Elmwood Franklin School in Buffalo, New York. Jon holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education from Canisius College and a Master of Science in Creativity and Change Leadership from SUNY Buffalo State.



Mike Raisch is the 2013 founder and prime architect of Buffalo-based Dark Labyrinth Entertainment which uses sensory deprivation and 3D audio to create sensory experiences that engage guests' imaginations. He spent four years at the State University of New York at Fredonia pursuing a self-designed baccalaureate in Halloween Entertainment Business. While at SUNY Fredonia, he founded the Interactive Theatre Society and Dream Career Scholarship, both of which seek to encourage students to connect to their creativity and follow their passion. Mike worked as a Creative at Apple for six years, regularly conducting training sessions which inspire people to learn, grow and access their creative potential through technology. He obtained a certificate of Creative Change Leadership in 2014 and the Master of Science degree in Creative Studies at SUNY Buffalo State in 2016. In addition to teaching creative problem solving to college freshman, Mike spends his time facilitating clients through the creative process by decluttering and organizing their space. This entrepreneurial venture, Put What Where, focuses on improving the relationship between the creative person and their environment. In all of Mike's work, he utilizes the creative process to ask in-depth questions and seek out groundbreaking solutions.

SUMMER ACADEMY PEER ENGAGEMENT MENTORS



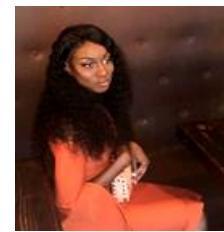
Alondra Chung

"10 - 15 years from now, your kids will either eat or starve based on the decisions you make today."



Teyana Core

"You're on your own. And you know what you know. And you are the one who'll decide where to go."
-Dr. Seuss



Fanta Doukoure

"I trust that everything happens for a reason, even if we are not wise enough to see it."
-Oprah Winfrey



Cindy Sanchez

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or walk around it."
-Michael Jordan



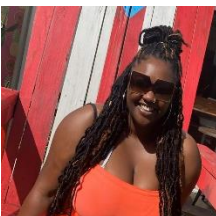
Jennifer Sosa

"No one is you and that is your power."
-Shanna Skidmore



Malika Thompson

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."
- Nelson Mandela



Ebone Walcott

"May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears."
- Nelson Mandela



Julia Walters

"We change the world, unless we change ourself."
- Diddy



Juliet Walters

"We're all in the same game, just different levels. Dealing with the same hell, just different devils"

THE HONORABLE ARTHUR O. EVE

During Eve's first term as an assemblyman, he led the effort to obtain an initial \$500,000 (\$3.8 million as of 2020) of funding to establish the State University of New York system's SEEK/Educational Opportunity Program. Since the 1970s, colleges in New York State have administered the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program to assist students who may otherwise be unable to attend college because of educational and financial circumstances. Later, in 1988, he would received the Kennedy Center Distinguished Leadership in Arts-in-Education Award.

A leading champion of educational, economic, and social equality, the Honorable Arthur O. Eve served the Buffalo community and all of New York state with great distinction. Today, he continues to enrich and inspire our communities through his ongoing leadership, dedication, and vision.

