#### URBAN-SUBURBAN INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER PROGRAM

# News about... Summer 2015 Urban Urban Suburban



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#### **Participating Districts:**

Brighton Brockport East Irondequoit East Rochester Fairport Hilton Kendall Penfield Pittsford Rochester Spencerport West Irondequoit Wheatland-Chili



#### **Urban-Suburban Celebrates 50th Anniversary**

On Friday, June 12th, the Urban-Suburban Program celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the Joseph A. Floreano **Rochester Riverside** Convention Center. The celebration included the 2015 Urban-Suburban Program graduates and their families, supporters who have made this groundbreaking program possible, as well as some of the alumni whose lives it has changed.



Dr. Walter Cooper, New York State Regent Emeritus and public education activist and Honorary Co-Chair of the celebration, was the keynote speaker, who shared personal memories of the creation of the Program prior to 1965, as well as his involvement with Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School #10 and his belief that the foundation to a successful education is parental commitment and support beginning in the preschool age.

The Urban-Suburban Program, coordinated by Monroe #1 BOCES, is the longest-running, voluntary, integrated multicultural educational program in the nation. The Program was initiated in 1965 by the West Irondequoit and Rochester City School Districts as a response to the racial imbalance that existed in the Rochester area schools during that time. After that, six additional school districts in our area followed suit, and thousands of students have benefitted from the program over the past 50 years, with 96% of graduates continuing on to higher education. Parent and family involvement has been and continues to be the cornerstone of the program.

Currently, Urban-Suburban Program participants include Brighton, Brockport, Fairport, Penfield, Pittsford, West Irondequoit, and Wheatland-Chili. This year the program welcomes five new school districts including East Rochester, East Irondequoit, Hilton, Kendall, and Spencerport.

### Congratulations to the Urban-Suburban 2015 graduating class!

The 2015 graduating class will soon begin the next phase of a magnificent journey. Many will pursue a postsecondary education, while others will go into the workforce or the military. Whatever path is chosen, we wish them nothing but success.



Malik Burris\* The College at Brockport Major: Physical Education



Andrea Johnson\* University of Rochester Major: Neuroscience



T'Yanna Kendrick\* West Virginia University Major: Forensic Science



Natalia Roman SUNY Potsdam Major: Education



Parris Strickland Utica College Major: Engineering



Auchiauna Williams\* Franklin Pierce University Major: Biology

# Brighton \_\_\_\_\_\_ Brockport \_\_\_\_\_



Jael Claudio\* Rochester Institute of Technology Major: Computer Software Engineering



Shakira Dinkins\* Roberts Wesleyan College Major: Sociology



Carlton Ekiyor\* SUNY Cortland Major: Pre-Medical



NyJa Harrell\* Niagara University Major: Biology



Aunnah Jones\* Monroe Community College Major: English



Olivia Robinson\* Georgia State University Major: Film Making



# Urban-Suburban 2015 graduating class (continued)



Cassidy Bertram\* SUNY Polytechnic Institute Major: Biochemistry



Maxine Bostick\* United States National Guard Keuka College



Princess Clark\* Monroe Community College Major: Public Relations



Anias Daniels Alfred State College of Technology Major: Automotive Service Technician



Summer McCullough United States Army



Akil Tubbs United States Air Force





De'zhaire Bennett\* Niagara University Major: Sign & Foreign Language



Delaney Best\* University of Buffalo Major: Computer Science



Kale'a Burks\* LeMoyne College

Major: Biology

Natalie Cabrera\* SUNY Fredonia Major: Liberal Arts



Emerald Hicks Jamestown Community College Major: Human Services



Juan Lora United States Marines



Khamariya Morrow North Carolina A & T Major: Forensic Science



Adalis Santiago\* Niagara University Major: Psychology

\* Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Recipients



# Urban-Suburban 2015 graduating class (continued)

# Penfield \_\_\_\_\_\_



Mack Dixon United States Army



Ashley Harris\* Johnson C. Smith College Major: Criminal Justice



Sebastian Irizarry\* Monroe Community College Major: Construction Trades



Kayjona Rogers\* University of Buffalo Major: Pathology



Jaelin Williams\* Onondaga Community College Major: Electronic Media Communications



Javon Williams\* Northern Virginia Community College Major: Computer Science

# Pittsford Mendon \_\_\_\_\_



Darrion Cancela\* Monroe Community College Major: Engineering



Darius Clinton\* SUNY Albany Major: Accounting



Zuril Hendrick Edinboro University Major: Sports Management



Jaizen Wilson Onondaga Community College Major: Criminal Justice



# Urban-Suburban 2015 graduating class (continued)

### Pittsford Sutherland \_\_\_\_\_ Wheatland-Chili\_



Delilah Albarran\* Canisius College Major: Animal Sciences



Hunter Binion Monroe Community College Major: Business Administration



Te'Asia Buckner\* Hampton University Major: Accounting



Santita Ebangwese Syracuse University Major: Chemistry



Selena Ragland SUNY Fredonia Major: Biology





Sitaara Bradley North Shore Community College Major: Radiology



JaVaughn Carroll Monroe Community College Major: Business



Allonzo Paige Monroe Community College Major: Business Administration



**Rodney Roberts** SUNY Polytechnic Institute Major: Psychology



**Tyler Roberts** Daemon College Major: Liberal Arts



Breanna Walker\* Penn State Altoona Major: Economics

Kenny Walker\* Rochester Institute of Technology Major: Mechanical Engineering



# Urban-Suburban Parents Raise \$16,000 for Program Scholarship Fund

In lieu of the traditional fundraisers supported by program parents, this year families made a \$50 pledge to the scholarship fund in celebration of 50 years of service and to support the graduating class of 2015. As a result, parents raised \$16,000—the most ever raised since the inception of the scholarship fund in 1985. In light of this success, parents will be asked to pledge \$50 annually (or more if they choose) in support of the class of 2016.

On May 2, the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Committee awarded \$16,000 in college scholarships, ranging from \$250 to \$2,000, to 29 outstanding students. Scholarship recipients must be Urban-Suburban students in good standing, must be scheduled to graduate in the year the application was submitted, must have at least a "C" average and must plan to attend college the following September or January. Scholarship awards are sent directly to the designated college in August of each year.

This year's Scholarship Committee consisted of ten volunteers: eight current program parents and two district administrators. The program seeks new volunteers each year which allows high school parents an opportunity to learn about the college application and scholarship process. The committee always provides valuable feedback which allows the program to consistently improve upon the scholarship process. All scholarship recipients were recognized at the program's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and their school's award ceremonies in May and June.



#### 2015 Scholarship Committee

(L to R sitting) Ebony Swank, parent, **Pittsford**; Andre Goodfellow, Counselor, **Wheatland**; Stephanie Corbitt, parent, **Pittsford**; Jennifer Ho, parent, **Penfield**; and Catherine Houser, parent, **Pittsford**. (L to R standing) Gilberto Torres, parent, **Brighton**; Frankie Gissendanner, parent, **Penfield**; Bruce McDaniel, parent, **Wheatland-Chili**; Dr. Brian Weller, Principal, **Pittsford Sutherland**; Angelena Lopez, parent, **Brockport**.



### Sugar is Sweet; Our Parents Are Too!

In 2012, Urban-Suburban parents began an initiative of supporting food cupboards or food shelves in the suburbs that participated in the Urban-Suburban Program. The program would ask suburban food pantries to identify a singular item they were most in need of, which made the "food drives" more effective. Since the inception of this initiative, Program parents have donated paper products to Brighton; peanut butter to Brockport, toothpaste and brushes to West Irondequoit, spaghetti sauce to Wheatland-Chili and now 373 pounds of sugar to the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf.

The donation helps to provide emergency food assistance to the individuals and families they serve. The Food Shelf was established in May 1997 and has served Penfield's neediest residents. They completely rely on donations from individuals, schools, clubs, churches and businesses. They continue to grow, serving more individuals and families each year and would like to thank the parents of Urban-Suburban Program for their generosity.



# Alumni Spotlight: Meet the 2015 Alumni Association Board Members



L to r Tamara Wimberley, Darius Melvin, Quinisha Anderson, Evan Logan and Jessica Lewis

**Tamara Wimberley** Penfield High School Class of 2001

**Darius Melvin** Brighton High School Class of 2006

**Quinisha Anderson** Penfield High School Class of 2001

**Evan Logan** Penfield High School Class of 2009

**Jessica Lewis** Irondequoit High School Class of 2003



# Fairport Students 'Shed a Little Light' on the Urban-Suburban Program

In celebration of the Urban-Suburban Program's 50th Anniversary and Black History Month, students that attend Fairport High School's (FHS) Urban-Suburban Program saw a powerful and timely opportunity to educate their classmates, teachers and administrators about the Program and create awareness about its success.

During the school's monthly Friday Forum session, the students presented *"Shed A Little Light,"* a presentation and panel discussion that highlighted the district's 13-year partnership with the Urban-Suburban Program. The students shared the genesis of Urban-Suburban, cited the suburban districts that were the early forerunners, outlined the application process and, most importantly, explained the benefits of the program during a panel discussion.

Senior Maxine Bostick said, "Attending school in Fairport helped me grow as a person and overcome obstacles." Other students credited the program with providing them with an opportunity for a solid education in a caring and supportive community.

The panel of students from the FHS Urban Suburban senior class, as well as sophomores and juniors in the program, talked about their experiences and time spent in Fairport. Classmates also had an opportunity to ask the panelists questions during a question and answer session.

"With the connections I've made through Fairport, I wouldn't return to the Rochester City School District," stated Maxine when asked by a student if she would consider returning to city schools. "I think we have the best of both worlds: living in the city and attending Fairport schools."





Students in the Urban-Suburban Program participate in a panel discussion as part of a presentation highlighting the Urban-Suburban Program at Fairport High School. (L to R) Cassidy Bertram, Eury Rosario, Destinee Johnson, Camilia Sosa, Maxine Bostick, Princess Clark, Summer McCullough and Gwyn Stringer.



#### **Student Corner**

**Askwakh Jeylaani** was selected by her teacher, Mr. Will Kaufman, as February's Partners Pride winner. Mr. Kaufman selected her for this award because she is always the mediator between students who may not see eye-to-eye during recess or small group work. She doesn't like students to argue about little things. She is always trying to choose the most positive option that each student can agree upon so they can continue to enjoy playing and working with each other.

Ashwakh is polite, respectful and a quiet voice in the busyness of the school day. She is a friend to all and it is important to her that her peers are kind and respectful to each



other, but most of all that they get along with each other. Ashwakh has a strong sense of self and a strong sense of what is right and what is wrong. She will quietly and politely speak her mind when she believes that something is not right. She is a joy to work with and a pleasure to see each day at Indian Landing!

Maxine Bostick, Princess Clark and Summer McCullough are members

**McCullough** are members of Hourglass, Fairport High School's yearbook club. Their positive attitudes and creativity brought a contagious excitement to the entire yearbook club. Maxine used her writing talent as she titled various sections of the yearbook and added captions to pictures. Princess, who is artistically inclined, designed pages which allowed staff members to add pictures to her



art. Summer excelled at the important task of tagging students in pictures so the yearbook staff would know how many Fairport High School students were pictured in the yearbook and how many times they appeared, a gigantic task considering the size of the school. Mrs. Roessel, the club advisor, shared, "It has been delightful having the girls join the team and they will be missed terribly next year." The staff is looking ahead to next year, so if any Urban-Suburban students would like to join the staff they should contact Mrs. Roessel at <u>dmroessel@fairport.org</u>.



**Cedrick Monroe Azor** is a 2nd grader at Park Road Elementary in the Pittsford School District. He was nominated for the "Park Road Outstanding Citizens" Award by his teacher, Mrs. Socker. He was nominated for being respectful, having tremendous citizenship and being a role model student. He quietly helps his peers and believes in being truthful. Dr. Rudd, the principal, said Mrs. Socker is grateful to have Cedrick in her class and that he adds so much to the dynamic of the day. At the end of the year there will be a number of children chosen to receive the award but Dr. Rudd said that it is a great accomplishment to be nominated amongst all the students. His family is so proud of him.



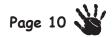
Congratulations to **Epongue Ekille**, a sophomore at Fairport High School. After an extremely competitive round of auditions at the Hochstein School of Music & Dance, Gary L. Palmer, Ph.D., Dean of Students/Co-Chair of Piano Department announced Epongue as the winner of the Grade 9-10 Merit Scholarship Competition in piano and violin in the amount of \$300.

**TyReek Sizer** is an 11th grade student at Irondequoit High School. He has been a member of Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) Sports Management since 9th grade. He recently competed in a business class competition where he had to make decisions regarding a football franchise in an online simulation that provided the feel of ownership and decision making on specific management and marketing areas such as staffing, promotion, player management, ticket pricing, concert booking, social media layout, etc. Students were given 15 minutes to present in front of thousands of spectators in a trade show

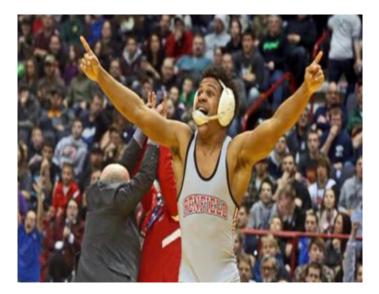


Pictured are teammates Nick Charles, Tyreek Sizer and Charlie Eblacker.

like environment. DECA prepares emerging entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the world. Ty'Reek's team competed against approximately 3,500 teams in America (consisting of 1-3 people per team) and finished first in the nation. He was then invited to Orlando, Florida to compete against the top .04% of students around the world including places such as Guam, Puerto Rico, Spain, etc. He finished first in the world competition.



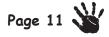
Frankie Gissendanner started the Urban-Suburban Program in 1st grade. Frankie played football for the Southside Cyclones for a couple of years then decided to do a winter sport in the off season. In 4<sup>th</sup>grade, Frankie decided he would try basketball. A football coach suggested he learn how to wrestle. Initially he wrestled in a Pittsford youth program; it wasn't until he started wrestling in tournaments that he realized Penfield had a youth wrestling program. He met the Penfield Varsity Coach, Mr. Leone who suggested he become the manager, which he was for a few years. While attending wrestling camps he absorbed everything he could about different moves and attacks as he continued to get better. In 7th grade, he was able to make the Varsity team and because of his weight he mostly



wrestled upperclassmen, juniors and seniors. Currently in the 9th grade, he is the 2015- 138lb NYSPHSAA wrestling Champion. He won his match 3-1 in overtime over a senior who will be wrestling for Princeton. Frankie is currently ranked in the top 15 wrestlers in the country at 138 pound weight class. He is the only wrestling state champion in the history of Penfield High School. His parents and family are very proud that he is a part of the Urban-Suburban Program and Penfield High School.

**Carlton Ekiyor** is a senior at Brockport High School and has received many accolades in athletics, academics and civic engagement. He was recognized as the Most Valuable Player and First Team All Greater Rochester for football, played forward in a 2014 Hockey Sectional Game and received the Hands of Christ Award on March 4, 2015 from Bishop Ronald Matano of Catholic Diocese of Rochester for his volunteerism.





# **Did You Know?**

#### Brighton

#### **Brighton names Director of Innovative Student Learning**

Brighton Central School District Superintendent Dr. Kevin McGowan has announced the selection of Dr. Mike Liener as the Director of Innovative Student Learning for the District.

Dr. Liener has spent the last four years as an Assistant Principal at Brighton High School. In that role, he worked with countless teams of teachers to evolve and support curriculum development and instructional practices so that they are aligned to 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Response to Intervention principles. In addition to building work, Dr. Liener has served as a member of the Curriculum Council, District Technology, District Response to Intervention, and various program evaluation teams where his insight and contributions have been respected by all.

The Director of Innovative Student Learning is a new position that will oversee the K-12 Visual and Performing Arts Department, current and future work supporting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century projects, development of instructional technology, and development of programming that meets specific needs for remediation and enrichment.

Dr. Liener joined the District following a very successful career as a teacher and administrator with the West Irondequoit Central School District. He has a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Rochester and a master's degree in geology with a minor in education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Liener earned a certificate of advanced studies in educational leadership from the State University of New York at Brockport and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Rochester.

#### Brockport

# **BCSD** Welcomes New Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

The Brockport Central School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Jacob L. Reimer as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, beginning July 1, 2015. Reimer most recently served in a dual role as Director of Finance and Instructional Technology for the Marion and the Gananda Central Schools. In this position, he managed all aspects of human resources and supervised all business office activities, including budget development, for both districts.

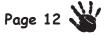
Reimer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Kansas and a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Roberts Wesleyan College. He is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at the University of Rochester.

Reimer and his wife Lindsay have two young boys, aged 4 years and 19 months.

"I am extremely excited to become part of the Brockport family," says Reimer. "Everything I have seen shows me that this is a tight-knit community that we are going to enjoy being part of!"







#### Fairport

#### Brett Provenzano Appointed Fairport's Superintendent of Schools

The Fairport Central School District's Board of Education named Brett Provenzano as the organization's next superintendent of schools, beginning July 1. Provenzano has served as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction (ASI) for Fairport since July 2014.

He began his educational career as a social studies teacher in Newark Central School District for one year. He continued as a social studies teacher and lead teacher for seven years in the Pittsford Central School District. While teaching, he also coached a variety of sports, including football, softball and basketball. He also was as an assistant principal in the Webster Central School District for three years before coming to Fairport in 2005 as the Principal of Johanna Perrin Middle School where he served before becoming the ASI this year.

"These are pivotal times in the field of education, and how we proceed today will reveal what our schools will look like tomorrow," he said. "Working closely, as partners with the Fairport Board of Education, I am proud and honored to be representing Fairport Central School District in this journey. We will build upon the rich legacy of excellence that is deeply rooted at the core of our schools and community. I anticipate collaborating with the dynamic Fairport school community to do what is best for our students and for each other as we move forward."

Provenzano and his family – including his wife and three sons – will soon move to Fairport and his sons will attend Fairport schools beginning in the fall.

#### Jefferson Avenue Assistant Principal Retires

With 31 years in education, Lynne Manuel has been the assistant principal at Jefferson Avenue Elementary School since 2003, but beginning July 1 she will transition into a new role as a retiree.

Although she has worked with students in all grades K-12 throughout her career, she started at the high school level. It was there that she helped her students compete at the state and national levels in Future Business Leaders of America, with school yearbooks, as class adviser and coach for a variety of sports including her favorite, softball. She has also served as a technology coordinator, helping to integrate computer pods into classrooms at a time when it was not common.

As an elementary administrator, Manuel led character education efforts and was actively involved in coordinating the requirements for the S.A.V.E. legislation. When she came to Jefferson Avenue in 2003 she continued those character education efforts by bringing the mascot 'JAZ' to life and coordinating with the staff to instill the school's Caring Communities and character trait of the month efforts. She also started the JA staff basketball event, which helps raise funds for local agencies.

Manuel said she will miss working with the dedicated, caring professionals and students over her past 31 years in education.

"There is something very special about watching students grow, not only physically, but academically," she said about her time at Jefferson Avenue. "No matter what the grade level, it's so rewarding to watch students show their excitement about their accomplishments."

Looking ahead, Manuel said she is anticipating the birth of her first grandchild in June, joining a golf league, and traveling with her family both nationally and internationally. She also enjoys tennis, and is hoping to attend more men's tennis tournaments.







#### Penfield

#### **Putnam Appointed Penfield Superintendent**

The Penfield Board of Education recently approved the appointment of Dr. Thomas Putnam as Superintendent of the Penfield Central School District. Dr. Putnam served as Acting Superintendent since July 2014, and previously served as principal of Penfield High School for four years. "We are thrilled to offer Dr. Putnam the position of Superintendent of Schools. He is a highly respected educator with a proven track record of leadership, achievement and strong ethics," said Board President Carole Nasra. "We have been privileged to have Dr. Putnam as an administrator in the District for the past several years. He has demonstrated his commitment to the Penfield community and its students, and we are looking forward to working with him as we continue to strive for excellence in our schools," she added.

Dr. Putnam holds his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Rochester, his

master's degree in curriculum development and instruction technologies from SUNY Albany, and his bachelor's degree in elementary education from SUNY Cortland.

"As a resident of the Penfield Central School District, I am honored to serve as the District's next Superintendent. I continue to be truly amazed by the strength of our community, the support of our parents, the dedication of our staff, and the creativity of our students," Dr. Putnam said. "I look forward to continuing the great work we have started in meeting the needs of all students and in building upon the tradition of excellence that is inherent in our District," he added. Dr. Putnam and his wife, Michelle, reside in Penfield with their two sons, Teague and Isaac.

### **Pittsford**

#### John Weymann, Assistant Principal, SHS retires

After 18 years in the Pittsford Central School District and 32 in education, John Weymann is retiring. He began teaching chemistry and physics in Catholic schools before moving to public education, including Geneseo and Avon. After 13 years of teaching, Weymann went into administration, fulfilling a year-long internship at Bay Trail in Penfield before coming to Pittsford Sutherland High School. Weymann retires as the Assistant Principal for 11th and 12th grades.

Weymann's plans for retirement include buying a 2002 VW camper van and traveling, participating on the Pittsford Youth Services Board, spending time at his cabin, kayaking, biking, hiking, and learning about woodworking, doing volunteer work, and possibly some substitute teaching.

#### West Irondequoit

#### Maria Dougherty Named Assistant Principal at Irondequoit High School

Ms. Maria Dougherty joined the faculty of Irondequoit High School as assistant principal. Ms. Dougherty most recently served as the principal of the Rochester Career Mentoring Charter School. Prior to this, she served as the program coordinator of the D'Youville Porter Campus School and Lorraine Elementary School, both in Buffalo, NY. She has served as a summer school administrator for D'Youville Porter Campus School and Herman Badillo School where she supervised kindergarten through eighth grade and collaborated with colleagues to create the School Comprehensive Education Plan.

Her teaching experience includes English as a Second Language at the D'Youville Porter Campus School where she taught grades four through eight working with regular and special education students. She was a pre-kindergarten teacher at The Children's School at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Ms. Dougherty holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of Rochester, a Master of Sciences in Educational Leadership from Canisius College, and a Master of Sciences in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from the University of Rochester. She earned an Advanced Certificate in Adolescent Spanish from the University of Rochester.









### Urban-Suburban Hosts First Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

On Saturday March 25, the Urban-Suburban Inaugural 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament and Scholarship Fundraiser was held at Pittsford Mendon High School. It included a middle school, high school and alumni tournament with proceeds benefiting the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Fund. Thank you to our outstanding volunteers, parents, students, players, alumni, staff, districts, committee members and community partners.



High School 3 on 3 Champions "Pittsford Sutherland"





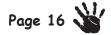


Middle School Champions, "The Red Raiders of Fairport," with Urban-Suburban staff and special guest Finley of the Rochester RazorSharks!

Finley of the Rochester Razorsharks with Middle School 1st Place Champions "Fairport Red Raiders" (bottom row), 2nd place winners "West Irondequoit Dake Eagles" (center row), and 3rd place winners "Pittsford Elites" (top row).



3 on 3 concession stand volunteers, affectionately coined Urban-Suburban "Concessionistas"





Above: Alumni winners Irondequoit/Brighton



Alumni teams Penfield & Irondequoit/Brighton



Our new address is...



**Urban-Suburban Program** Monroe #1 BOCES 11 Linden Park Rochester, NY 14625

#### Our contact information remains...



**Urban-Suburban Office:** Phone: 585-249-7045 Fax: 585-249-7044





Visit the Urban-Suburban Program Web site at: www.monroe.edu/US

