



News about...

July 2017

Urban **US** Suburban

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Participating Districts:

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

Coordinated by:



Message from our former Director

To all Program stakeholders, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as Program Director for the past twenty-two years. As I enter retirement, I'm proud that the driving forces of parental commitment, conscientious family support and concern, are still the hallmarks that have defined the Program since September 1965 when West Irondequoit CSD was our first district, to the upcoming September 2017 when Rush-Henrietta CSD joins as our thirteenth district. Stronger than ever, these hallmarks continue to bind the partnership between homes, schools, districts, and the Program.



As Urban-Suburban moves forward, I implore parents to continue to cultivate a climate that supports your child. Always remember that you are taking this magnificent educational journey with your child and, together with your family, you will realize the hopes and dreams for your child.

All the best,

Theresa J. Woodson
Program Director

Welcome! New Director of Urban-Suburban

I am pleased to announce Ms. Felicia Smith was appointed as the Director of Urban-Suburban at the June 22nd Monroe One BOCES Board of Education meeting. Previously a Community Liaison for Urban-Suburban, Ms. Smith completed a rigorous interview process involving members of the Urban-Suburban Governance Board and the Parent Advisory Committee. Ms. Smith began her duties on July 1st. Please join me in welcoming Felicia as our new director!



Daniel T. White
District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer

Congratulations to the Urban-Suburban 2017 graduating class!

The 2017 graduating class will soon begin the next phase of a magnificent journey. Many will pursue a post-secondary education, while others will go into the military. Whatever path is chosen, we wish them nothing but success.

Brighton High School



Kaila Beaty
Johnson & Wales University
Major: Baking & Pastry Arts



Mikayla Henry*
Ithaca College
Major: Biology



Lynia Jackson*
Niagara University
Major: Biology & Psychology



Izabelle Martinez*
Nazareth College
Major: Physical Therapy



Sabri Smith**
Monroe Community College
Major: Philosophy



Zhane Smith**
The College at Brockport
Major: Accounting



Taylor Som
University of Kentucky
Major: Kinesiology &
Exercise Science



Jamai Thomas**
St. John Fisher College
Major: Sports Management

** Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Recipient*
♦ Monroe One BOCES Scholarship Award Recipient
♦ Urban-League of Rochester Black Scholar

Brockport High School



Daneitsha Benitez
Villa Maria College
Major: Interior Design



Ahjane Butler**
Manhattan College
Major: Communications



Asye Conover*
University of Louisville
Major: Political Science



Brianna McCloud*
Villa Maria College
Major: Fashion Design
and Merchandising &
Business Administration



Indigo McCloud-Addison*
Nazareth College
Major: Music Business



Latoya McNish ♦
Roberts Wesleyan
College
Major: Nursing



Thandi Moses**
Florida Memorial University
Major: Law & Government



Marangeliz Santos
Corning Community College
Major: Psychology



Destiny Williams**
Monroe Community College
Major: Physical Education &
Exercise Science



Gabriella Zayas*
University at Buffalo
Major: Architecture

Fairport High School



Luis Betances
United States
Marine Corps



Ky'Asia Davidson*
Buffalo State College



Epongue Ekille*
Yale University
Major: Molecular Cellular
Developmental Biology



Wynter Holland**
Howard University
Major: Biology/
Pre-Medicine



Keshawn Howard*
Edinboro University
Major: Business Law



Dominique Jones**
Monroe Community College
Major: Communications



Eseoghene Kessington**
University at Albany
Major: Business Administration
w/ Human Resources focus



Musa Mberwa*
Monroe Community College
Major: Liberal Arts



Gwyndolyn Stringer**
Buffalo State College
Major: Fashion Merchandising

Irondequoit High School



Elaina Alston*
University at Buffalo
Major: Physical Therapy



Lexus Burgos*
The College at Brockport
Major: Criminal Justice



Joshua Marlin*
The College at Brockport
Major: Criminal Justice

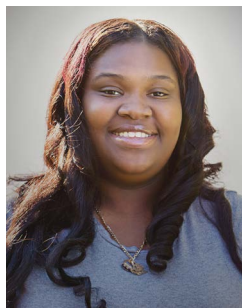


Ty'Sean Sizer ♦♦
Colgate University
Major: Economics



Amelia Smith*
Hobart & William Smith
College
Major: Biology

Penfield High School



Taryn Conley
SUNY Morrisville
Major: Nursing



Jordan Gross*
SUNY Albany
Major: Business
Administration



Sateria Wyche
Monroe Community College
Major: Psychology &
Sociology

Pittsford Mendon High School



Gianni Brown-Grant**
Binghamton University
Major: Neuroscience &
Spanish



Asia Hoyte*
University at Buffalo
Major: Pharmacy



Cierra Joiner**
Buffalo State College
Major: Early Childhood
Education



Trevor Nesmith**
St. Lawrence University
Major: Pre-Medicine



Miguel Orengo
Undecided



Briana Ramos*
Rochester Institute
of Technology
Major: Political Science



Tiana Swank**
Johnson C Smith
University
Major: Biology



Sidney Taylor**
Nazareth College
Major: Physics



Tyrice Williams*
Rochester Institute
of Technology
Major: Computer
Science

Pittsford Sutherland High School



Saleana Caraballo*
High Point University
Major: Biology



Marquis Carter*
Bucknell University
Major: Engineering



Mahyra Collins
Monroe Community
College
Major: Psychology



Faith Cook*
Pace University
Major: Communications



Derrick Lopez
Monroe Community
College
Major: Culinary Arts



**Hillary Mekoyo-
Bakou****
University at Buffalo
Major: Nursing

Wheatland-Chili High School



Taylor Bishop*
SUNY Canton
Major: Nursing



Trinniti Gunn**
Alfred University
Major: Pre-Medicine



Ciarra McDaniel
Monroe Community
College
Major: Undecided

** Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Recipient*
◇ Monroe One BOCES Scholarship Award Recipient
♦ Urban-League of Rochester Black Scholar

Class of 2017 Receives \$24,500 in Urban-Suburban Scholarships

The Urban-Suburban Scholarship continues to set new records! As a result of the annual pledges and proceeds from the 3-on-3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament, \$25,857 was raised—setting a new record!

On May 6, the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Committee convened and awarded \$24,500 in college scholarships to 25 students. The awards ranged from \$250 to \$4,000. Scholarship recipients must be Urban-Suburban students in good standing, scheduled to graduate in the year the application was submitted, have at least a “C” average, and plan to attend college the September or January following their high school graduation. Scholarship awards are sent directly to the designated college in August of each year.

In addition, the Monroe #1 BOCES Educational Foundation awarded two \$500 college scholarships to graduating seniors in the Urban-Suburban Program. This scholarship can be received directly by the students and used to assist with out-of-pocket college expenses, such as books. The Educational Foundation continues to designate this scholarship annually.

All scholarship recipients were recognized at the annual Urban-Suburban awards ceremony and their respective schools’ awards ceremonies in May and June.

This year’s Scholarship Committee consisted of nine volunteers: seven current program parents and two district representatives. The program seeks new volunteers each year, affording current high school parents of the program an opportunity to learn about the Urban-Suburban scholarship and application process. In order to be a committee member, parent volunteers must have a student in grades 9–11. It is never too early to sign-up. If you are interested in serving on the scholarship committee for the Class of 2018, please contact Felicia Smith at (585) 249-7046.



2017 Urban-Suburban Scholarship Committee

Seated, left to right: Sherry Gibson, E. Irondequoit Parent; Stephanie Corbitt, Pittsford Parent; Cheryl Poole, Pittsford Parent and Webster Rep.; Jamine Wilson, Brighton Parent. Standing, left to right: Shelia Cotton, Penfield Parent; Eric Windover, Wheatland Chili Jr./Sr. High Principal; Cheryl Call, West Irondequoit High School Counselor; Jermell Barnes, West Irondequoit Parent; and Damaris Torres, Fairport Parent.

Urban Suburban Hosts its 7th Annual Award Ceremony

On May 15, 2017, the Urban-Suburban Program held its 7th Annual Awards Ceremony. The ceremony recognizes the academic accomplishments of our students in grades 6–12, including graduating seniors and scholarship recipients. This year, 432 students received an award.

Students received awards based on the following criteria:

- Core Honors Awards:** Average grade for three marking periods of 80–89% in math, science, English and social studies/history.
- Academic Achievement:** Average grade for three marking periods of 90% to 94% in math, science, English and social studies/history.
- Academic Excellence:** Average grade for three marking periods of 95% or more in math, science, English and social studies/history.
- Perfect Attendance:** Maintained perfect attendance for first three marking periods.
- Principal’s Award:** Recipient participates with students, faculty and staff in an effort to reduce minority group isolation; works to the best of his/her ability to achieve academic excellence; and demonstrates he/she is a responsible citizen.
- Scholarship Awards:** Be in good standing with the Program; maintain at least a “C” average; be accepted at, or made plans to attend, an institution of high learning.

The ceremony also presented the “Slugger” Awards to honor friends of the Program for their service and commitment. The Slugger Award acknowledges someone who has given unwavering dedication and commitment to the students, parents, administrators, school faculty and staff of the Program. This year, we recognized eight individuals who have made significant contributions to the Program.

- Tina Cook—Parent Advisory Council Member
- Curtis Jones—Parent Advisory Council Member
- Scott Hirschler—Scribner Road Elementary School (Penfield)
- Karen Jackson—School 9 (Rochester City School District)
- Chuck Miller—Principal, Iroquois Middle School (West Irondequoit)
- Mark Nelson—Principal, Harris Hill Elementary School (Penfield)
- Cherrial Poole—Parent Advisory Council Member
- Rob Thomas—Principal, Twelve Corners Middle School (Brighton)

Program Director Theresa Woodson was acknowledged for her 23 years of service with the Legacy Award. All the best to Ms. Woodson in her retirement!

The Urban-Suburban Program would like to thank everyone that was a part of making this night a success. Special thanks to East Irondequoit Central School district for hosting this year’s ceremony at Eastridge High School.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients!

(Award Ceremony Photo Gallery on following pages)

Award Ceremony Photo Gallery





Award Ceremony Photo Gallery





The Pre-Kindergarten Experience:

The Tale of a Suburban Parent Participating in a Cross-District Collaboration

The commemoration of the Urban-Suburban's 50th Anniversary two years ago resulted in several program changes. The program essentially doubled the number of participating districts, now representing thirteen suburban districts within Monroe County. Our mission statement changed, from focusing on racial and ethnic integration to deconcentrating poverty, providing access to better educational opportunities for **ALL** city residents. Efforts also resumed in an attempt to make Urban-Suburban a true two-way program, allowing suburban students attending our participating districts to take advantage of opportunities at several city high schools and a special initiative between School 50 and West Irondequoit.

The cross-district opportunities were made possible due to a federal integration grant Rochester City School District (RCSD) received in 2014. As a part of this grant, five students from West Irondequoit entering pre-kindergarten were allowed to attend School 50. Interest in this opportunity was generated via word of mouth, and had immediate appeal to parents in that district. Not only did the two communities border one another, but it promoted a diverse educational experience, in a free, high-quality pre-kindergarten program.

Jackquelyn Woodard was one of the parents that took advantage of this opportunity. Her son Keith Jr. has had a wonderful experience as a part of this initiative. As early as October, only a month into the school year, Mrs. Woodard expressed how incredibly pleased she was with the growth that she had seen in her son in such a short period of time.

In November 2016, Mrs. Woodard wrote:

“As I reflect back on my son's last few months of school, I am beyond impressed with this initiative. I have witnessed more growth in him from September to now than I ever thought possible. Keith is excited every day when I arrive to pick him up and disappointed on Fridays when he cannot return to school the following day. Therefore, I feel the need to brag a little bit about my son's overall experience. First, Mrs. Agostinelli's class is impeccably run. The routines have been set and the kids follow them. As an educator, I understand the importance of students being able to take direction before entering kindergarten. This will definitely not be an issue for these kiddos. They understand centers and more importantly how to make the most of them. Secondly, Mrs. Agostinelli and her teachers assistants, have provided a safe environment for students to learn and more importantly reflect back on their mistakes. The culture and climate of that room is one of kindness and respect. Students are challenged to work out their problems on their own and seek help when appropriate. As a result, I have seen a tremendous amount of growth in my son's confidence. Keith is quickly learning to persevere, even when things can be challenging (both socially and academically). This is a life lesson I feel is being lost in an ever changing world of instant gratification. Lastly, the home/school communication piece is phenomenal. Mrs. Agostinelli has never been short of amazing in response to my questions. I never feel rushed by her or anyone in her class. If I email, she takes the time to write a thoughtful response back. If she has a concern, she addresses it directly. It is evident that everyone involved in this classroom is invested in educating every single kid who goes there. Overall, this program has far exceeded my wildest dreams and I cannot recommend it enough. I am so grateful to everyone that has helped my son blossom. I know now, more than ever, that he has a very bright future ahead of him. Mrs. Agostinelli and her team have set my son up for success. Thank you to Mr. Crane, Mrs. Jefferson and those at School #50 who have so profoundly impacted my child. I cannot wait to see what the next seven months have in store.”

This partnership will continue in the 2017–18 school year. Five new families will have the opportunity to participate in this partnership. “Serving as the Chairperson of the Governance Board for the past 10 years, I am most proud about the fact that our suburban parents are finally beginning to realize the value of cross-district collaboration, supporting our efforts to make this program a true, two-way partnership,” Jeff Crane, Superintendent of West Irondequoit Central School District.

Alumni Spotlight

Arkee Allen Irondequoit High School Class of 1994

Arkee began the Urban-Suburban Program in his freshman year at Irondequoit High School. He made the best of the opportunity as he recognized early that he wanted to lead by example in the school and promote positive stereotypes of the people who were in the program. In turn, the school gave Arkee an excellent education in more than just the core academic subject areas. Arkee participated in student government, was the treasurer of the Black Student Union, competed on the Mathlete team, and was selected for the class academic competitions.

Arkee really excelled in the athletic arena as well. He earned All-County honors in football and All State honors in wrestling. He continued wrestling into college where he was a 4 year starter, All-American, and captain of the team. Arkee credits Urban-Suburban with changing his life: “The exposure that I received from being in the program made all the difference. Before Urban-Suburban, I had dreams, but like most inner-city children, you do not know what is out there to actually want... In the program, suddenly my goals changed, my hopes changed, and I wanted more than what I was seeking for before.”



Upon graduating from Irondequoit High School, Arkee attended Columbia University on a full scholarship. He obtained a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the prestigious university. He also holds two master's degrees: one from St. John Fisher College in educational leadership and another from SUNY Brockport in mathematics.

Currently, Arkee is the Director of Community Engagement for E3 Rochester, a non-profit organization determined to bring more than 6,000 quality seats to Rochester Public Schools. In Arkee's current role, he ensures that the community is demanding quality schools within the RCSD and in the Charter Sector. Education reform has become a Civil Rights matter in Rochester, and Arkee is at the forefront of the charge to make lasting change for its residents.

Prior to this role, Arkee was the Principal of PUC Achieve Charter School in Rochester, New York. He was an Assistant Principal for five years, spending three years in a Rochester Charter School and another two in rural NY. In both places, Arkee concentrated on developing a positive culture within a school building. He began his career as a math teacher in a suburban district for eight years and left to teach in the Rochester City School District in order to inspire reluctant students to achieve.

With 19 years of experience in education under his belt, Arkee continues to aspire to make students great. He encourages those he comes into contact with to surpass their negative stereotypes and become beautiful self-reflectors. His greatest success is seen when his former students recognize that they must pay forward the blessing bestowed upon them and give back to the community once they are a success.

A veteran wrestling and lacrosse coach, Arkee is also the co-founder of ROC E6, Incorporated and We Run the Roc. ROC E6 is a summer camp and spring Lacrosse team that combines athletics and academics, teaching inner city children the necessary skills and motivation to become successful students as well as contributing members of their community. We RUN the ROC is a community group that uses Facebook to bring people together in the name of fitness and fun. Arkee believes physical fitness goes hand in hand with mental fitness and delivers this message daily to adults that want to make lifestyle changes. Through encouragement, challenges, competitions, and celebrations, the 30 member group has seen great gains and is prospering.

Arkee still resides in the city of Rochester in the same 14621 neighborhood that inspired him and raises two boys, Styles (15) and Lennon (16).

Urban-Suburban 3rd Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament

Congratulations to the Champions of our 3rd Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament:

Middle School Champions:

Team Moorhead:

Jalyn Moorehead, Drew Krull, Asher Gupton

High School Champions:

Pittsford Sutherland—Knights:

Alonso Person, Malek Williams, Nyles Goodwin & Ben BG

3 Point Champion:

Kidder Lindley—Barker Road

Foul Shooting Champion:

Eric Krowl



Above:
3 Point Champion,
Kidder Lindley, and
Ms. Felicia Smith



Ms. Felicia Smith with High School
Champions: *Pittsford Sutherland—
Knights*



Foul Shooting Champion, Eric Krowl



2017 Volunteers



2017 Referees

(Continued on next page)

The Urban-Suburban Program would like to thank everyone who contributed to the scholarship tournament, making it a success. It was truly a collaborative effort amongst all of our constituents, including our current students, families, participating districts staff and families, alumni, volunteers, and community sponsors. As a result of these efforts, additional Scholarship dollars were raised for deserving graduating seniors and great fun enjoyed by all who attended including our friend, Finley of the Rochester RazorSharks.

Thank you to all of our volunteers: _____

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Ray Cunningham | • Samari Brown | • Trevor Nesmith |
| • Maria Thomas | • Gehmaal Marshall | • Ronald Wilcox |
| • Felix Davenport | • Alton Burrows | • Kyle Taylor |
| • Bruce Wilder | • Sara Burrows | • Sidney Taylor |
| • Michael Gause | • Serena Burrows | • Damion Taylor |
| • Valerian Johnson | • Heaven Harper | • Shauntie Johnson |
| • Cheryl Poole | • Lieselle Taylor | • Emilio Ball |
| • Evelyn Rosario | • John Crocker | |
| • Lisa Johnson | • Demeatrich Pound | |
| • Nayyirah Morrow | • Kelly Scott | |
| • Mardasia Ashford | • Sundae Hodge | |
| • Faith Turner | • Eboney Barnes | |

The Urban-Suburban Team:

- Tawanda Johnson
- TaShonda Jefferson
- Theresa Woodson

Thank you Sponsors: _____

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Applebee's | • Wegmans | • Darien Lake |
| • Chipotle Mexican Grill | • Dunkin Donuts | • SkyZone Trampoline Park |
| • DiBella's Old Fashioned Submarines | • Joe's Crab Shack | • Charlotte Furniture and Appliances |
| • Eastview Mall | • Tinseltown USA & IMAX | • Bruegger's Bagels–Panorama Trail |
| • KFC | • Olive Garden | • DMD Laser Dentistry |
| • Tops Friendly Market | • Valenti Sports | • Coca-Cola |
| • Taco Bell | • Sonic | • Rochester Razor Sharks |
| • Red Lobster | • Texas Roadhouse | • Monroe Community College |
| • Sea Breeze Amusement Park | • Denny's | |

Thank you Host: _____

Pittsford Central School District

This is an annual event for U-S, and we are striving to expand every year. If you have any ideas or would like to be a part of this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact Felicia Smith at 585-249-7046 and Felicia_smith@boces.monroe.edu

District Updates

Pittsford

Puma Named Principal of Pittsford Sutherland High School

Pittsford, NY—Mark Puma, current assistant principal at Pittsford’s Mendon Center Elementary School, has been named principal of Sutherland High School following an intensive search and interview process. Carole Schwab has been serving as Sutherland’s interim principal since July 2016. He began his new role on July 1, 2017.

Puma is a longtime District employee and resides in Pittsford with his wife and three children. A native of Buffalo, Puma started his educational career in the Pittsford Central School District as a music teacher in 1998 and worked as a music teacher and department leader until being named assistant principal at Mendon Center Elementary School in 2011.



“Mark has proven himself as an outstanding leader in his administrative role at Mendon Center Elementary School,” Pittsford Superintendent Michael Pero said. “I look forward to Mark using his leadership skills and experience to guide our students and staff at the secondary level and helping the District maintain its reputation of excellence both statewide and nationally. I also thank Carole Schwab for all that she has done for our students and staff at Sutherland while serving as interim principal.”

As assistant principal at Mendon Center Elementary School, Puma provides clinical supervision and student behavior support while serving as an administrative representative on District committees. He currently serves as coordinator of the Dignity Act Team, chairperson of the Instructional Support Team, New York State testing coordinator and incident commander for the Incident Management Team. Puma is also a member of the District Leadership Team and Instructional Leadership Team.

“My K–12 work experience and living in this community provide me with a very unique perspective and thorough knowledge of PCSD,” Puma said. “This enables me to see situations from a variety of lenses and informs my daily practice.”

Puma’s appointment comes a week after *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Sutherland High School No. 22 among 1,270 public high schools in New York and No. 165 nationally out of more than 20,000 public high schools. Mendon High School was ranked No. 14 statewide and No. 86 nationally. Schools are ranked based on students’ performance on state-required tests and how well they prepare students for college.

Puma earned his Bachelor’s Degree from SUNY Purchase with a degree in Fine Arts – Music Performance. He also earned a Master’s Degree in Music from SUNY Potsdam and administrative certification from SUNY Brockport.

Puma and his wife, Lisa, have two sons and a daughter who attend Pittsford Schools.

Interview teams from the District and Sutherland High School, representing teachers, administrators, school board members, parents, and the community, conducted interviews with applicants and made their recommendation to the superintendent of schools and the Board of Education. The Board acted on that recommendation on May 2, 2017 approving Puma’s appointment.

Laura Ballou Named New Klem Road North Elementary School Principal

Webster Central School District is pleased to announce that Laura Ballou, current assistant principal at Klem Road North Elementary School, has accepted the position as the new principal of Klem North. Mrs. Ballou officially began on July 1, 2017. She took over for Steve LaMonica, who was named the new director of physical education and athletics for Webster Thomas High School and Willink Middle School.



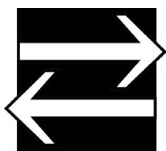
Mrs. Ballou is deeply committed to Klem North's students, faculty, and staff, and has served as assistant principal for the North Stars since July 2009. She is excited to begin her new leadership role as principal and continue her work with Klem North. For nearly a decade, Mrs. Ballou has not only served as assistant principal at Klem North, but stepped in as interim principal at Klem South and Klem North, along with working as an administrator on special assignment for the district. She is a caring administrator who enthusiastically embraces change, is a master collaborator and communicator, and epitomizes the district's vision of "Compassionately Connected, Joyfully Engaged, Always Learning."

Prior to Mrs. Ballou's work with Klem North, she was an elementary special education teacher in Weedsport CSD and an elementary teacher in West Irondequoit CSD. She also served as assistant principal for two elementary schools in the Katonah-Lewisboro CSD and district director of ESL before returning to the Rochester area to begin her work in Webster.

Mrs. Ballou earned her BAS degree in Elementary and Special Education from SUNY Geneseo and her MS degree in Educational Administration from St. John Fisher College. Though she is an Auburn native, she says Webster CSD really feels like home and is thrilled to continue her work with Klem North's students, families, faculty, and staff. She and her husband, Nick, a Victor CSD elementary teacher, live in Penfield and have three children, Celina (7), Ryan (5), and Liam (2).

"I look forward to building on my existing connections with Klem Road North's outstanding students, families, faculty, and staff," said Mrs. Ballou. "I'm excited about our dynamic initiatives here in Webster CSD and at Klem North. There is no place I'd rather be!"

Klem North families will be kept updated on the search process for a new assistant principal, which will begin immediately. Webster CSD is fortunate to have Mrs. Ballou continue sharing her personal and professional gifts at Klem North. Congratulations to Mrs. Ballou on her new position.



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

A program of

