## News about...

**April 2019** 





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#### Participating Districts:

Brighton **Brockport** East Irondequoit East Rochester Fairport Hilton Honeoye Falls-Lima Penfield Pittsford Rochester Rush-Henrietta Spencerport Webster West Irondequoit Wheatland-Chili

Coordinated by:



### **Message from the Director**

Dear Urban-Suburban Families:

Tuesday April 23, 2019 is "National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day." This presents a wonderful opportunity to revisit school bus safety with students and share ways to celebrate our transportation partners.

Transportation is an indispensable part of our students' education. Parents, we need your collaboration to ensure students enjoy safe trips to and from school every day. Keeping in mind that riding the bus is a privilege and not a right, we ask that you review these bus safety requirements with your student:



- Follow all of the posted rules on the bus.
- Do not eat or drink on the bus at any time.
- Do not use profanity, offensive language, or engage in activity which demean fellow students.
- Respect the property and personal rights/space of others while on the bus.
- · Board the bus in an orderly manner, go immediately to your seat and buckle your seat belt.
- · Keep your hands and feet out of the aisles.
- Remain seated at all times while on the bus.
- Use low voices when speaking to each other while on the bus. The driver must be able to hear the radio.
- Do not bring electronic items on the bus (such as cell phones, game boys, etc.).
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- Always report problems immediately to the Bus Driver or an adult at school.





(continued)

We invite you to join us in appreciating our drivers and transportation partners on "National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day." We are grateful for our drivers!

Here are a few ideas on how to celebrate the day:

- If you have children that ride a school bus, thank their school bus driver in person or send a thank you note with your children to give to their driver.
- Help your student make a thank you note they can present to the driver.
- · Share the date with family, friends and co-workers.
- If you would like to become a school bus driver, this day is the perfect day to take steps to do so!

Thank you in advance for communicating regularly with your student and driver to ensure safety on the bus.

Sincerely, Felicia A. Smith

#### Message from the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

This year PAC members have worked diligently with program staff to offer programming that meets your needs, interest, and reflect your feedback.

As a team, we have provided more engaging and informative events. A common theme has been that parents want more representation of their districts. **WE NEED YOU!** 

We invite and encourage you to consider joining the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). Your assistance and input is needed.

Being a member of the PAC gives you the opportunity to have a seat at the table with fellow Urban Suburban families, staff and your District Superintendents.

#### PAC Obligations include:

- · Attending monthly PAC meetings.
- Attending new family orientation.
- Meeting with district PTSA and Superintendents.
- Assisting with the planning and operation of parent meetings.
- Annual PAC retreat held in July
- · Participation in district activities.
- We invite you to speak with current PAC members or Urban Suburban staff to get details about this commitment and visit an upcoming PAC meeting.
   We meet every month on the first Wednesday! Once again, welcome and we look forward to engaging with all families!



#### **Meet the Staff**

The Urban-Suburban team has grown! We are excited to introduce you to the newest members of our team.

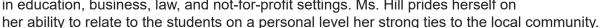
#### Please welcome our new Education Specialists, Monique DeVries and Shateela Hill.

Mrs. DeVries joined the Urban-Suburban team in October of 2018. She will serve as the point person for seven of our fourteen participating districts; Brighton, East Rochester, Honeoye Falls-Lima, Pittsford, Spencerport, Webster and West Irondequoit. Her main duty is to work collaboratively with district staff, students, families and all stakeholders to ensure the program's continued success. Mrs. DeVries is an alumnus of Rush-Henrietta High School. Following graduation, Mrs. DeVries attended Temple University, receiving a bachelor of business administration in marketing. After working for several years in the business field, Mrs. DeVries attended the University of Rochester and received her Master of Science in School Counseling and Diversity Counseling. Prior to joining the Urban-Suburban Program, Mrs. DeVries worked as a school counselor at Bishop Kearney Middle and High School. Mrs. DeVries is excited about joining a program with such rich history. Her main goal is to ensure students and parents are equipped with the tools they need to have a thriving educational career.



Ms. Hill began her career with Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program in November 2018. In this position, she is the point person for seven of the 14 participating districts working collaboratively with students, families, districts, and community partners to help coordinate student support. Ms. Hill is responsible for oversight of Brockport, East Rochester, Fairport, Hilton, Penfield, Rush-Henrietta, and Wheatland-Chili.

Ms. Hill is an alumnus of the Urban-Suburban Program, graduating from Brockport High School in 2012. Following graduation, Ms. Hill attended Nazareth College of Rochester, receiving a bachelor of science in business administration with a minor in law. Prior to joining the Urban-Suburban Program, Ms. Hill was a master's student at the University of Rochester where she recently received her master of science in education policy. Her background encompasses experience in education, business, law, and not-for-profit settings. Ms. Hill prides herself on





#### Please join us welcoming Support Staff Bonnie Eaton:

Ms. Eaton began her career with Monroe One BOCES in 2002. Throughout this time, she has enjoyed working in a variety of different programs: Adult Education, Human Resources and the EMCC and MOF Programs. Currently Ms. Eaton is working part-time (mornings) in Regional Programs & Services and part-time Support Staff (afternoons) in the Urban-Suburban Program. In addition, she is a Licensed Massage Therapist where she has her own private business.

Ms. Eaton graduated from SUNY Alfred, specializing in Medical Records Health Sciences. She also received her certification as a NYS Massage Therapist, completing her studies at Onondaga School of Therapeutic Massage. She is a wine and cooking enthusiast who also enjoys working out (aerobics/step/ kickboxing/hiking and walking/golfing), dancing, and herb gardening. She is "very proud to be a part of the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program and working with the program staff, families and districts."



#### **Parent Meeting on Cultural Awareness**

On March 20, 2019, the Urban-Suburban Program closed out its parent meetings for the 2018–19 school year with a panel discussion on Cultural Awareness. The panel was moderated by Monroe Community College Professor Tokeya Graham, and consisted of the following panelists:

- Kerry Gant—Technology Integration Coach, Brockport High School
- Jarmel Glass—Current U-S student, 10th grade at Fairport High School
- Anthony Marshall—'95 Graduate of West Irondequoit, Current Parent
- Kim Melvin—Current Parent, Parent Advisory Council member
- Dr. Lesli Myers-Smalls—Superintendent, Brockport Central School District
- Casey van Harssel—Principal, East Rochester Junior/Senior High School

The discussion focused on ways to create culturally inclusive schools and communities. Panelists shared initiatives that are occurring within their respective districts to promote awareness and help facilitate difficult conversations around race. For instance, students at East Rochester Junior/Senior High School participated in a reading group with faculty and staff. The group read the book, The Hate You Give, and upon completion of the book went to see the movie. The relationships formed and dialogue that ensued because of the reading group led to the formation of more activities and events around racial awareness at the school.

Under the direction of Kerry Gant, Brockport High School has formed the Young Men of Color Alliance, also referred to as YMOCHA. YMOCHA is a collaboration with The College at Brockport and their Men of Color group. The goal of this group is to provide mentors and role models for students of color who do not see themselves represented among faculty and staff at the school. To date, YMOCHA has discussed issues such as identity, personal accountability, implicit bias, code switching, microaggressions, the value of college, and effective communication skills. Meetings are held monthly.

The standout of the evening was tenth-grader Jarmel Glass. Jarmel shared experiences from his journey in the U-S program and provided words of wisdom for students and parents: GET INVOLVED! He encouraged students to have an open mind and the willingness to try something new. He also expressed



how monumental his mother is in his educational success. She transports him back and forth to Fairport, sometimes daily, allowing him to be active in his school community. To hear Jarmel's story, read his reflection in the Student Corner.

Current program parents Anthony Marshall and Kim Melvin echoed Jarmel's sentiments, emphasizing how important it is for parents to be present. Mr. Marshall stressed how meaningful it is for children to look in the audience during a band performance, school play, or game and see their family supporting them. He encouraged parents to take pictures or record videos and share those keepsakes with their children. Ms. Melvin cautioned parents against excluding their children from school activities and events based on perceived lack of resources as districts may have resources available to help. You simply have to reach out and ask for assistance.

Remarks from parents who attended the parent meeting on Cultural Awareness: What did you like most about this meeting?

"The diverse representations of the panelists and the perspective they provided from their authentic vantage point."

"I loved hearing what is being done in different schools and what they are doing to bring cultural awareness to their community."

"Jarmel Glass' speech. We need more students like Jarmel."

This panel reflected only a small portion of the initiatives occurring within our partnering districts. Due to space limitations and time constraints, the Urban-Suburban Program was unable to have a representative for each school or district. For detailed information about what is happening at your school, please contact the school directly. Stay tuned for an encore parent meeting on Cultural Awareness in the 2019–2020 school year!

#### **Student Corner: Jarmel Glass**

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the opportunity to share my reflection in the newsletter and be a panelist for the parent meeting on Cultural Awareness. I hope my story can help other students and parents navigate the waters of being involved in the Urban-Suburban Program.

Currently, I am in the 10th grade at Fairport Senior High School. I entered the program in the 6th grade, making this my fifth year of participation. When I first started the U-S program, it was a major change for me socially and academically. The challenges I encountered are ones I imagine other U-S students have experienced as well, so I feel compelled to address them.

On my first day of school at Johanna Perrin Middle School, the most significant thing I noticed was the differences among people. I remember thinking, "there is almost no one here who looks like me." Initially, it was difficult making friends. When you do not know people, you tend to stick to what you know and people who look like you. For



a while, that was okay. It was just me and my friends, dubbed the "Urban-Suburban" kids. However, I started to feel like I was missing out. I would hear friends chatting in the halls and cafeteria about their weekend adventures, parties, and plans for the upcoming weekend to do it all over again.

I also struggled with embracing and exhibiting pride in my heritage as an African-American, and understanding the socioeconomic differences among my peers and me. The former was more trying for me. Things that seemed as clear as day to me, were not for others. Students, nor teachers, did not seem to understand my experiences. I remember a time in Spanish class we were talking about morning routines. Looking through the vocabulary list, I saw "to comb one's hair," "to brush one's hair" and "to straighten one's hair." I asked my teacher, "How do you say 'to pick one's hair?" and she was utterly confused. Albeit, she probably would not have any use for a hair pick. However, it made me feel out of place because no one knew what I was talking about.

The latter probably has more to do with mental discipline than anything else. Although it was not intentional, there were times I felt out of place seeing my friends' large houses, nice cars, and hearing about their trips to different countries. To that end, I offer the following advice that helped me. First, if there is something that a teacher, student, or anyone else does not understand about your life and experiences, take the time to explain. You will be surprised how receptive people are. Second, realize that material things are not the measure of a person, the content of your character is. Third, your parents work extremely hard to provide you with what you have. Warm food, clothes on your back, and a home is a gift many do not have. Last, GET INVOLVED! I am very involved in my school community. I enjoy running varsity track, being a district Asset Leader, and taking advanced classes, such as Biology 10 Honors and Spanish III Honors.

The biggest obstacle I had to face was within myself. I had to overcome the fear of rejection, put myself out there, and try to meet someone new. I could not have been any happier when I did! I was able to meet people that I may have never met had I not put myself out there. As I result, I developed relationships with people in middle school that I consider my best friends today.

# **Urban-Suburban 5th Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament**

Congratulations to the Champions of our annual 3 on 3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament held on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Mendon Senior High School.



#### Middle School Champions:

Team Name: "The Gold Team" Players:

Jahkim Hodge-Price—#53 Montessori Nahmer Pray—East Jr/Sr. High Chrishton Webster—Northeast College Prep



#### **High School Champions:**

Team Name: "Brockport"

Players:

Malacai Cooper—Brockport High School Ishmael Hannah—Brockport High School

Willie Ball—Brockport High School Kevin Laurenz—Brockport High School



**2019 3 Point Champion: Andre Starks**—Fairport High School



2019 Foul Shooting Champion: Colin Buanec—Fairport High School

#### Thank you!

The Urban-Suburban Program would like to thank everyone who contributed to another successful year for the 3-on-3 scholarship tournament. It was truly a collaborative effort amongst all of our partners especially the students, parents, participating districts, volunteers, friends and sponsors.

Attendees enjoyed generous donations from:

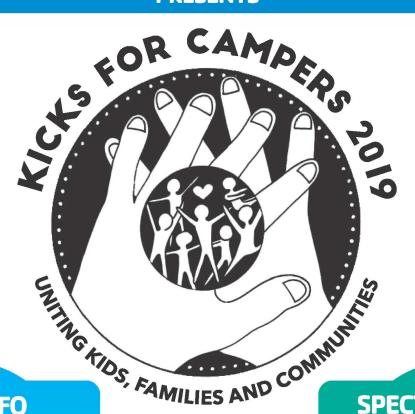
- Applebees
- Carrabbas Italian Grill
- Eastview Mall
- Amiels Original Submarines
- Red Lobster
- Wegmans
- Dunkin Donuts
- Tinseltown USA
- Olive Garden
- SkyZone Trampoline Park
- Panera Bread
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Woodcliff Hotel and Spa

Special thanks to **Pittsford Central School District** for hosting this event for the fifth consecutive year.

We greatly appreciate the generosity and support of all of our partners. It could not happen without you! Thank you so much for helping Urban-Suburban succeed in its endeavors!



# YMCA OF GREATER ROCHESTER CAMP CORY PRESENTS



#### **TEAM INFO**

#### **Kickball Divisions:**

Grade 5
6-8
9-12
Adult/Non-student

#### **Team Registration Donation:**

\$20 per player (includes T- Shirt)

**Registration Closed** 

SATURDAY MAY 11 2019

5PM-8:30PM

Mendon HS Stadium & Athletic Fields

#### **SPECTATOR INFO**

#### **Admission:**

\$5 Pre-Sale \$8 at Event FREE for kids 5 years & under

#### At the Event:

#### Raffles!

HS Reserved Parking Spots Class Pizza Parties

Thad Brown Channel 8 Sports

**Concessions** 

**KICKS T-shirts for sale** 

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Pittsford Schools



Interdistrict Transfer Program





#### **District Updates**

#### Spencerport CSD

Congratulations to the Spencerport Central School District on being awarded a Top Workplaces 2019 honor by the Democrat and Chronicle. The list is based solely on **employee feedback** gathered through a third-party survey administered by research partner **Energage**, **LLC**, a technology-based employee engagement company. The anonymous survey measures several aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution, and connection, just to name a few.

"Being named a Top Workplace is a prestigious recognition," Superintendent Dan Milgate said. "I'm very honored and appreciative for this award, because the judges are our employees. I am grateful to work with such dedicated professionals every day, and this honor confirms what I have known for years, and that is, Spencerport is a top workplace with top employees."

"Top Workplaces is more than just recognition," said **Doug Claffey**, CEO of Energage.
"Our research shows organizations that earn the award attract better talent, experience lower turnover, and are better equipped to deliver bottom-line results. Their leaders prioritize and carefully craft a healthy **workplace culture** that supports employee engagement."

Claffey added, "Becoming a Top Workplace isn't something organizations can buy. It's an achievement organizations have worked for and a distinction that gives them a competitive advantage. It's a big deal."



#### Webster CSD

#### Brian Powers named new Willink Middle School Principal

Webster Central School District is pleased to announce that Brian Powers, who served as assistant principal at Spry Middle School, has accepted the position as the new principal of Willink Middle School. Mr. Powers officially began in mid-March. He took over for David Paddock, who served as interim principal of Willink Middle School this school year.

Powers is thrilled to return to Willink Middle School where he began his 16-year career with WCSD in 2003 as a social studies teacher. While at Willink, Powers served as dean of students, a position in which he worked closely with Willink's students, families, and administrative team, and was also lead teacher of the social studies department for five years. He also shared his time and talents with students through his service as the Titan boys modified and freshman basketball coach for 10 years and the boys modified lacrosse coach for 12 years.



Throughout his work with both Willink and Spry Middle Schools, Powers has distinguished himself as a collaborative leader intent on building quality connections with students, staff, and colleagues. During his tenure at Spry, Powers has been instrumental in the development of a team that is focused on fostering and building resilience in students. He has also worked closely with Spry's ELA, technology, social studies, and mental health departments since beginning his role as assistant principal of the White House in 2015.

Powers earned his undergraduate degree from SUNY Geneseo and his master's degree from the University at Buffalo. He received his NYS Certification in School District and School Building Leadership from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Leadership Academy and is pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Rochester. He and his wife, Lindsay, live in Webster and have three children, Emma (4), and twin boys, Jameson (2) and Jackson (2).

"I am honored to continue my work with our district's middle school students as the new principal of Willink Middle School," said Powers. "I'm excited to return to Willink and for the opportunity to reconnect with the outstanding students and staff of that school community."

#### Jennifer Sullivan named new Plank Road South Elementary School Principal

Webster Central School District (WCSD) is pleased to announce that Jennifer Sullivan, current assistant principal at Plank Road South Elementary School, has accepted the position as the new principal of Plank South Elementary School. Ms. Sullivan will officially begin on July 1, 2019. She will be taking over for Scott Wilcox, who is leaving In July 2019 to join the American School in Japan (Tokyo) as deputy head of school for learning.

Ms. Sullivan is deeply committed to Plank South's students, families, faculty, and staff, and has been a member of the Plank South school community since 2001 when she began her work as a physical education teacher. She has served as a lead teacher for Plank South (2012–2015) and in her current role as assistant principal since July 2015. Ms. Sullivan continues to distinguish herself as a collaborative, enthusiastic leader,



whose positive attitude is evident in all that she has accomplished throughout her 18-year career at Plank South.

While at Plank South, Ms. Sullivan has implemented several wellness initiatives for the entire school community, cultivated student leadership opportunities, and facilitated integral professional development practices and programs for her colleagues. Above all, her commitment to the district's vision of Compassionately Connected, Joyfully Engaged, Always Learning, is integral in her daily interactions with students, families, and faculty and staff.

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Ms. Sullivan earned her undergraduate degree, Master of Arts degree, and Certificate of Advanced Studies in Education Administration from SUNY Brockport. She also earned NYS certifications as a School Building Leader and School District Leader. Ms. Sullivan lives in Fairport and is the proud parent of two sons, Luke and Ryan.

"I am greatly anticipating this new leadership role at a school I've been fortunate to be part of for the past 18 years," said Ms. Sullivan. "I will continue to foster a school climate that is conducive to a quality education for all of our students."

Plank South families will be kept updated on the search process for a new assistant principal, which will begin immediately.

#### Important Initiatives within Webster CSD:

#### New Start Times

Last August, Webster CSD's Board of Education approved the district's proposal to change start times for elementary and secondary students. **Beginning in Fall 2019**, new start times will be approximately 8:45 a.m.—3:15 p.m. for secondary schools and 7:50 a.m.—2:20 p.m. for elementary schools (Plank North and Klem North will be 7:40 a.m.—2:10 p.m.) with all times plus or minus five minutes. This timeline allows Webster CSD to spend the next 12 months communicating the details of this positive change for the One Webster community. Throughout the past year, elementary and secondary work groups have been meeting to research the scientific evidence that supports this start time change for Webster CSD students, along with the implications for the district's academic program, transportation, childcare, athletics, and elementary activity period. District teams will continue to meet throughout the 2018-19 school year and communicate with families regarding how this change will occur beginning with **Next Fall's** 2019–20 school year.

#### Before and After School Program

In addition, WonderCare, Webster CSD's new before and after school program, began online registration on Monday, March 18. Please visit www.websterschools.org/wondercare for more information. WonderCare has been established in an ongoing effort to ease the transition for families as the district prepares to shift to an earlier start time for elementary schools in fall 2019. Parents with questions may contact wondercare@webstercsd.org or call 216-0017. You can also follow WonderCare on its new Facebook page, @wondercarewcsd and Twitter feed, @wondercarewcsd.

#### Families of Color Group

Webster Central School District is excited to announce the formation of the district's Families of Color group. This new group is an extension of the established Empire Justice Center's Families of Color program. The Families of Color group's mission is to bring together a strong collective of parents, concerned family members, and allies passionate about building a racially- and economically-just community for children in WCSD.

The intent in forming this group is to meet regularly and share insights into our children's school experiences, provide social support, and establish meaningful connections with one another. In order to ensure this group is welcoming to all families in WCSD, including families of color, individuals with disabilities, immigrants, LGBTQ people, and people of different religious backgrounds, we choose to leave racism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and other "isms" at the door.

By coming together, the newly formed Families of Color group will form a supportive team that allows us to lean on and learn from each other, and advocate for any changes we want to see in our local schools and community.

The first meeting was held on Monday, March 4 at the Webster Town Library's community room, 980 Ridge Road, Webster, NY). If you would like more information, please email Terry McCarthy, WCSD director of humanities and district liaison to the Families of Color group, at **terrance\_mccarthy@webstercsd.org**.

We look forward to sharing this group experience with you!



#### West Irondequoit CSD

#### Dr. Aaron Johnson takes over at West Irondequoit

Dr. Aaron Johnson was appointed the seventh Superintendent of the West Irondequoit Central School District on December 21, 2018 and began his term on March 4. He replaced Mr. Jeffrey B. Crane, whose tenure began in 2003 and exited as the longest tenured school leader in Monroe County.

Johnson, a 45-year-old Buffalo area native, began his career in 1997 as a teacher. He taught Earth Science and Biology at Gates Chili from 1998-2008, then served as an Assistant Principal there for two years. He became Principal at Byron-Bergen Junior/Senior High School from 2010-15 and spent the past 3½ years as Superintendent of Schools at Avon Central.



Johnson earned his Bachelor's Degree in science at SUNY Brockport, where he also earned his Masters' degree in Education. He earned his doctorate in 2015 from the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education. At UR, he was selected as the Tyll van Geel Educational Leadership Award winner.

"The West Irondequoit Central School District has a brilliant reputation as an innovative leader and champion for children in the Rochester region that makes it an excellent place to live, learn and lead," Johnson said. "My wife, Ainslie, and son, Abel, are delighted to now call West Irondequoit our home. I could not be any happier and more honored to have been selected to serve this District and community."



## **Alumni Spotlight**

Dr. Daniele Lyman-Torres Wheatland-Chili High School Class of 1997

Dr. Daniele Lyman-Torres began the Urban-Suburban Program in the first grade at T.J. Connor Elementary School. She fully embraced her time and opportunities in the Wheatland-Chili School District. Lyman-Torres was very active throughout her elementary and high education despite her family not having transportation.

Lyman-Torres enjoyed music, drama and sports. She performed in school plays, musicals and was a member of the band. She embraced leadership opportunities and served as the captain on the volleyball team, Class President all four years of high school, and chairperson for the prom committee, just to name a few. Lyman-Torres was inducted into the National Honor Society and her name can still be found on the school's wall in recognition of her receipt of the prestigious Marine Band Award during her senior year.



After graduating from Wheatland-Chili, Lyman-Torres received an associate's degree in liberal arts and sciences from Monroe Community College. In 2016, she was added to their Alumni Hall of Fame. She also has a bachelor's degree in organizational management, master's degree in strategic leadership from Roberts Wesleyan College, a certificate in executive healthcare leadership from UCLA, and doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College. Her area of research is nonprofit leadership competencies and financial sustainability. Lyman-Torres serves on the United Way of Greater Rochester's Community Impact Cabinet and several other community boards and committees.

Currently, Lyman-Torres is the Commissioner of the Department of Recreation and Youth Services for the City of Rochester. In this capacity, she is charged with the stewardship of the city's parks, play grounds, aquatics, athletics, recreation and community centers, youth services, community workforce development and the Rochester Public Market. She is also an adjunct professor at Roberts Wesleyan College and St. John Fisher College. Prior to joining the City of Rochester, Lyman-Torres was a human resources and operations professional for more than 19 years.

Lyman-Torres strives to support young leaders with understanding community challenges and achieving their highest potential. She credits the Urban-Suburban program with offering her exposure to a different way of living and learning than she would have experienced living and going to school in the same community. "Diversity comes in many forms. Urban-Suburban students do not just diversify their host districts, the cultural exchange goes both ways,"said Lyman-Torres. "I truly believe my academic achievements are a direct result of being in the Urban-Suburban program."

Dr. Lyman-Torres and her husband, Eric, reside in Rochester with their six children, ages 20-6.



Visit the Urban-Suburban Program Web site at:

www.monroe.edu/US

