



## A NIGHT OUT TO CELEBRATE CHARACTER IN BUFFALO ON JUNE 6

CITRS and the Character Council of Western New York are hosting an event to raise awareness, support, and celebrate the success of the groundbreaking Buffalo Public School District's Character Development Initiative. In conjunction, the Buffalo History Museum is hosting a panel discussion of nationwide experts on Wednesday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss the initiative. Panelists include:

- James M. Wadsworth - President of the John R. Oishei Foundation's Board of Directors
- Clay Hamlin - Founder of CITRS and Buffalo Native
- Michael Josephson - Founder of CHARACTER COUNTS!
- Suzanne Bracci - President of the Character Council of Western New York
- Heidi Milch - Executive Director of Community Connections of New York, Inc.
- Colleen Cunningham - Supervisor of the Buffalo Public School District's Office of School Leadership
- Demario Strickland - Principal of Harvey Austin School #97

Cocktails and dinner will follow at 7:30 p.m.

The BPSD's initiative, which includes 21 Buffalo Public Schools, is currently the largest character development initiative in the U.S. It reaches 14,000 pre-k – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, as well as teachers, parents, and the surrounding community. The overarching goal of the initiative is to cultivate ethical, respectful, and caring school environments, in which students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally in their lives and the workplace.

Many leaders have already pledged their support to the initiative, such as:

- City of Buffalo - Mayor Byron W. Brown
- Buffalo Public School District - Superintendent Dr. Kriner Cash
- Villanova University - Athletic Director Mark W. Jackson

To learn more, please visit: <https://www.citrs.org/citrs-ccwny-event>

### **ABOUT CITRS:**

CITRS works with educators, organizations, and school districts to develop character-centered environments, in which students thrive ethically, socially, and emotionally. [www.citrs.org](http://www.citrs.org)

### **ABOUT THE CHARACTER COUNCIL OF WNY:**

The Character Council of WNY exists to enrich the understanding of the benefits of good character and to facilitate the continual development and enrichment of character excellence for citizens throughout our community. [www.charactercouncilwny.org](http://www.charactercouncilwny.org)