

Editorial

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SUNY Chancellor Impressive in D&C Interview

Posted by [Bill Krieg](#) • August 5, 2011 • 9:04 am

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I enjoyed listening to SUNY Chancellor Zimpher overview her strategy and fourth rightly answer questions. As one of the state's most key appointees, I believe she is more than up to this tough job.

First off, however, a reality check is needed. Even with cuts in recent years the state's enormous higher education networks (SUNY and CUNY) are the most highly subsidized in the country. This is only consistent with the fact that we spend the most in many key categories including education (K-12) and medicaid. The challenge of getting big costly state and local government under control is ongoing.

In this regard, the Chancellor who, of course, should and will advocate for increasing funding for SUNY, has some good ideas to increase value. In education, if you are not in a classroom your value has to be understood. Redundancy in administrative jobs whether it be K-12 or in higher education offers a whole bunch of low lying fruit to consolidate and save. The Chancellor recognizes this and, I believe, will reduce administrative costs as a percent of total education costs. School districts should be doing the same mainly through consolidations.

Using the four powerhouse, national research SUNY university centers to collaborate with the private sector to generate jobs is a good idea. However, they need to deliver results and should be measured to insure this is so. The potential for a major university to impact the economy of a region can be confirmed by just looking at the UofR including URMC. They have by far been the greatest generator of jobs over the past several years.

The Chancellor also noted the need to greatly improve the quality of K-12 education. Far too many students drop out before even completing high school but also lots of students entering colleges require remedial work and low freshmen retention rates are the tragic result. Dr. Zimpher made a key point that students can and do fall behind even in their early years. Once they do, the odds of them catching up are not good. In advocating programs of collaboration with local school districts, she is taking on a huge challenge. Making any structural changes to K-12 education will require the acceptance of a very powerful entity-the teachers' unions. The unions will likely take a position that education in K-12 is their fiefdom and they know best. I believe the unions will present an ongoing obstacle to any real change with their resistance to objective evaluation of teachers and

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their belief that tenure (life time employment) and high compensation are their "entitlements". I wish the Chancellor good luck and she has my full support.

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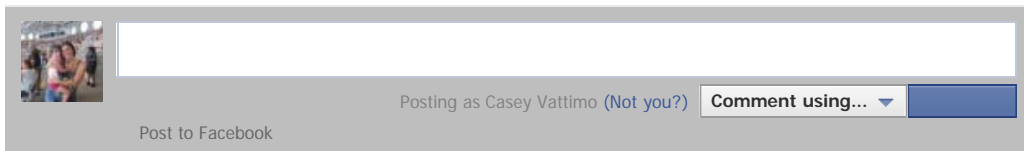
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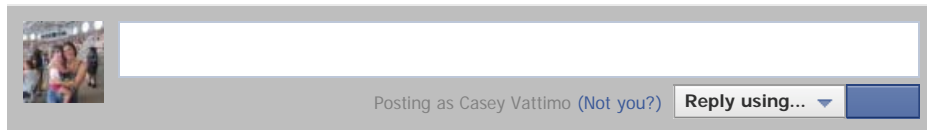


Jerry Mahoney · St. John Fisher College

If educational reform is to occur in this country and in particular in New York State redundancy should be a primary objective. That alone, however, is not a magic elixir able to heal the cumbersome spending habits endemic in bureaucracy. Politics and job security are inevitable consequences of any bureaucracy. The ability to constrain or reduce their inexorable self expansion in a free society is an Achilles heel to an effective administration of authority.

Irresponsible fiscal policy that dictates perceived needs of society to trump that society's ability to afford their "needs" always leads to economic chaos. Bureaucratic government has a built-in gene that thrives upon that perception. Changing that genetic fault is a difficult metamorphosis and, I fear, will only occur in a crisis mode. This country and this state are rapidly approaching that mode.

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While Zimpher talks about gaining economies from the consolidation of admin functions between colleges, she will not make any cuts to the central bureaucracy at SUNY Central, where they spend over \$50 million a year in salaries and benefits, and 25% of the 400 employees make over \$100K or more per year. When we already have first rate administrations in each college, it makes no sense to have a bunch of hacks second guessing the decisions made by people close to the communities that they serve. Also, the best education that SUNY produces happens in the smaller colleges like Brockport or Geneseo, not in the huge undergrad lecture halls at

newspaper's institutional view and express their personal opinion about, well, whatever.

Editorial Board

James Lawrence: has, for the past 18 years as Editorial Page editor, been responsible for producing more than 5,100 daily Editorial and Speaking Out pages. He started his journalism career in Cleveland shortly after graduating from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Along the way, he has had career stops in Denver, Orlando, Fla., and White Plains. But unquestionably, he says, some of his most rewarding years as a journalist have been here in Rochester, being a part of positive change. That change has included reforms that followed an aggressive "Challenging Albany" campaign, greater public awareness and pushback against the coarsening of our culture, and strides being made to make this region a destination community.



Jane Sutter: became deputy editorial page editor in June 2009. She also has served as managing editor and general manager/custom content at the Democrat and Chronicle. She writes editorials on many topics, with a focus on health and education, helps plan and edit copy on the Editorial and Speaking Out pages, oversees the Board of Contributors and assists Editorial Page editor James Lawrence in managing the department. She has worked as a reporter or editor for newspapers in Iowa, Illinois, Florida, South Carolina and Elmira, where she was executive editor of the Star-Gazette. She recently received her master's degree in media management from the University of Missouri School of Journalism.



Max Anderson: I have been with the Democrat and Chronicle since 2006, when I was hired as letters editor. In 2008, I shifted into the role of community conversation coordinator. Most of my



time on the job is spent reading and editing the thousands of letters to the editor we receive each year. I also monitor reader comments posted on our Web site, write blogs and editorials, and edit the weekly "Thumbs up, down" column.

Patrick Burke: is currently the Rochester regional president for First Niagara Financial Group. Prior to this position was the founder of a consulting firm, Burke Group, in 1989 that grew to 40 employees in two offices (Rochester and Syracuse) when it was sold in 2001. His community involvement includes serving as chairman of Lifetime Assistance Foundation, chairman of St. Ann's Foundation, member of the board of directors and executive committee of Greater Rochester Enterprise, vice chairman of the Rochester Philharmonic, and a member of Cornell University Advisory Board, "Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise."



Janice O'Rourke is a marketing executive with Xerox Corporation. She has lived in the Rochester area for 23 years, having transferred from Santa Monica, California. Her community involvement activities include: Board of Directors, Genesee Valley Women's Foundation, Past President, Xerox Women's Alliance, St. John of Rochester parish community and University of Dayton Alumni Association. Her hobbies include travelling, reading, writing and going to Jazzercise classes. Janice has four grown children ages 19 to 29 and lives in Perinton with her husband, Kevin.



Board of Contributors

Shirl Clark: I am Brooklyn born and raised, but Rochester is home. Having fulfilled undergraduate and graduate studies at local institutions has grounded my commitment. I have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed



volunteer roles and employment that has allowed me the opportunity to give back. I am currently employed by Coordinated Care Services Inc. as a contract employee for County of Monroe in the office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. My husband and I are both "urban by choice."

Andrew Dollinger: I am a lifelong resident of Rochester and a graduate of Elmira College. For 20 years, I have worked as a self-employed, commercial real estate broker; most recently, with CB Richard



Ellis. I market Upstate New York to retailers and investors across the nation. Additionally, I am interested in economic development, government and community service. I live in the Town of Brighton.

Kim Jones: In the past eight years, I've earned degrees in business administration, human service management, and I am a recent graduate of Keuka College and plan to earn my doctorate degree.



I am also a licensed Notary Public and currently the director of resident services at Pinnacle Place. Although my master's degree is in management, writing has always been a sincere passion of mine. I love listening to music, spending time with my family, and most importantly, I love life. I live in Gates.

Rob Knickerbocker: I am a senior at Brighton High School. I am interested in current events, politics, economics and mathematics. I love to read the editorials in many newspapers, and I love to debate with my peers. During the week, I spend time volunteering and participating in school clubs. I enjoy reading, playing the piano, playing video games and spending time with friends and family.



Bill Krieg: I have lived in Rochester since 1967 and currently reside in East Rochester. I worked 30 years at Kodak, including assignments in London and China, and now am mostly retired but own and operate a small vending business. I have



enjoyed volunteering at the Rochester Y and the Fairport Lions. I'm an Army veteran and an active alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh, being a member of the Advisory Board and Founders' Society at its Bradford campus.

Jacqueline Mendez: I am the daughter of Cuban exiles. Born and raised in New York, I learned quickly to honor freedom and liberty. My parents were grateful to raise their children to work hard and always help those in need. Today, I work as an academic adviser at Monroe Community College, and I am an entrepreneur. Both areas fuel my passion for greatness and achievement of the American dream. I live in Henrietta.



Larry Neal: I am a retired Navy fighter pilot and former Lockheed Martin software manager. I have traveled the world and lived in many places before returning to Rochester, where I grew up, attended city schools and graduated from the University of Rochester. I now teach chemistry at East High, my old school. My interests include soccer, photography, birds and cycling. I love Rochester and am concerned about its future. I live in Pittsford.



Mark Rice: I was born and raised in Washington State. After graduating from college, I spent several years living in the Philippines, Minnesota, Ohio, Idaho and Hawaii. In 1997, my wife and I landed in Brockport, where we are raising our two kids. I'm currently an associate professor and the chair of American Studies at St. John Fisher College.



Joan Smith: My career in print media spans 39 years as a reporter, photographer, editor and magazine contributor. I am a Rochester native with a passion for travel. My far-flung destinations — Russia, Southeast Asia, Easter Island, Alaska — with their surprising adventures often serve as backgrounds for articles and short stories. History, another passion of mine, also produces a wellspring of writing ideas. I live in Greece.



India Watson: I am a homeschooled sophomore in high school. I love math, science and English, and would like to pursue a career that incorporates these subjects. For



extracurricular activities, I play the piano and take dance at the Garth Fagan Dance School. In my free time I enjoy reading, listening to or playing music and working on math problems. I currently reside in the city of Rochester with my parents and two sisters.

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