Buffalo.com ShopBuffalo Marketplace Jobs Cars Real Estate Rentals Classifieds Pets Tickets Bflo Magazine Brides

Monday, November 26, 2012

THE BUFFALO NEWS

OPINION

Login Register

SUBSCRIBE

Daily news delivered to your home or office.

Updated: 11/26/2012, 03:49 PM Published: 11/26/2012, 03:49 PM

Fiscal cliff would paralyze higher education in U.S.

Tweet 0

By Nancy Zimpher and Jack Quinn

Without decisive action, the looming fiscal cliff, or sequestration of the federal budget, would quite literally paralyze higher education in the United States and have a serious effect on our nation's competitiveness in the global economy of the 21st century.

Nearly half a million students are enrolled at SUNY's 64 campuses, working toward degrees that serve the most pressing workforce needs here and nationally. Congress has until Jan. 2 to avoid more than $1 trillion in automatic budget cuts to higher education – cuts that mean devastating reductions in our college classrooms and laboratories, and to the programs that enable us to train the workforce of tomorrow.

SUNY-wide, sequestration threatens to eliminate nearly $50 million in research funding, greatly hindering the opportunity for further advancements in health, smart energy and innovation. It will set New York back, and the SUNY system back, and our community college sector will be especially hard hit.

With rising college costs and the increasing call on high school graduates to enter some kind of post-graduation career training, community colleges need optimal resources in order to educate and train a forthcoming workforce, and to enhance and support their host communities. The nationally recognized ability of Erie Community College and others like it across New York to deliver this vital education would be severely hindered by the budgetary implications of sequestration.

Take the Perkins IV Grant, for example. Each year since 2007, this grant has awarded ECC millions to fund programs in growing fields like biomanufacturing, industrial

SPORTS SCOREBOARD

NFL
Final

Buffalo	13
Indianapolis «	20

Preview | Wrap | Box

More scores »

TRENDING STORIES

Today | This week

1. Letter: Republicans sank Romney's campaign
2. Improving rehab tax credits would pay big dividends
3. Letter: Why would anyone want Rice in office?
4. Letter: Rutecki outstanding in service to youth
5. Letter: Let's do what's best for the common good

technology and mechanical engineering technology.

The grant has been a principle source of federal funding to states for the improvement of secondary, postsecondary career and technical education programs, helping institutions like ECC augment their level of operation, as well as enhance training available to the students these colleges usher into the local workforce. Slashing educational funding would severely affect ECC's ability to train the next generation of students in emerging vocations essential not only to the U.S. economy, but to the evolving economy of Western New York.

As a nation, we cannot afford to reduce federal investment in higher education. Just as SUNY helps drive New York, the nation's colleges and universities in every sector are critical to the country's future economy. As President Obama said following his victory earlier this month, "our universities are the envy of the world."

We could not agree more, and strongly urge Congress and the president to work together to keep higher education, and America, from going over the fiscal cliff.

Nancy Zimpher is chancellor of the State University of New York. Jack Quinn is president of Erie Community College.

Tweet 0

2

A

The name and hometown of the subscriber of the account you are logged in under will appear along with your comment.

Log in with the same username and password used to access the site.

Username:

Password:

Log In

There are currently no comments on this article.

TODAY'S GAMES

Go to High School Sports Page »
Go to High School Sports Scoreboard »
Go to High School Sports Standings »

Boys basketball
CCAA III
Ellicottville at Forestville, 7:30 p.m.

Rick Pikuzinski Memorial Tourn. at Stanley Falk H.S.
Amherst Christian at New Creation Fellowship Acad., 4 p.m.

Central Academy at Stanley G. Falk, 5:30 p.m.

Buffalo cars under $10k

2006 Chevrolet Malibu
$9,443.00

2007 Chevrolet Cobalt
$8,972.00

2005 Chevrolet Impala
$9,445.00

by Make/Model by Dealer
Select Make
Select Model

Advanced Search BuffaloCars.com

CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

Tue 11/27: Flanders Recorder Quartet
Wed 11/28: WYRK Taste of Country Winter Acoustic Concert
Fri 11/30: DATE CHANGE: Cypress Hill
Fri 11/30: Paula Poundstone
Sat 12/1: Nicholas Sparks
Sun 12/2: Billy Talent
Mon 12/3: 2 Chainz
Tue 12/4: A Christmas Spectacular
Sat 12/8: Feed the City with Ian Hunter

Mon 12/10: Kissmas Bash 2012

Fri 12/14: Killswitch Engage

More events

Online OT: Pick 'em Week 13

advertisement

Current Market News
Lowest investment quotes for the Hottest Technology Stock! Buy Now!
MassiveDynamicsCorp

Distance Education
Quickly Find Distance Education Programs & Advance Your Career.
www.business.com

Video Courses 4 Teachers
Earn graduate credit at an affordable price. $330 for 3 credits.
VideoCourses4Teacher

Ads by Yahoo!

CONNECT WITH US

Facebook Twitter Alerts RSS Newsletter Products

Quick Links

Manage subscription
Subscribe
Contact us
Online advertising
Print advertising
General help

Our Websites

E-edition
Buffalo.com
ShopBuffalo
Buffalo Magazine
[BN]insider
Buffalo News Store
Marketplace
Buffalo Savers
Classifieds
BuffaloCars
HomeFinderExtra
ApartmentFinderExtra
BuffaloJobFinder
Sweetfind
Buffalo Brides
Pet Place

[BN] Copyright 1999 - 2012 - The Buffalo News copyright-protected material.