



# Urban Leadership Learning Community

*Canisius College*

## **Program Description:**

The Urban Leadership Learning Community (ULLC) seeks to create the next generation of leaders by attracting students from populations that historically have been denied access to positions of influence and power.

Each year ULLC provides renewable, full or partial scholarships, to underrepresented students from the city of Buffalo. The scholarships include full or partial tuition, fees, and room and board.

## **Program History:**

ULLC enrolled its first class in Fall 2000, established with a grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund of Washington, D.C. and later was supported by the John R. Oishei Foundation of Buffalo, NY.

## **Program Goals:**

The purpose of the program is to create the next generation of leaders in urban life. ULLC develops academic and leadership potential through team learning, to create a new generation of leaders in the Buffalo area.

## **Program Layout:**

Students coming into the program are already active urban leaders in the Buffalo urban area. Once the students are in the program, they go through an eleven1-day training. All the classes that are part of the program are team based rather than lecture focused.

Students are evaluated annually, need to be in good academic standing, and also be involved on campus for their scholarship to be renewed. The students also give back to the University by proctoring classes.

The team learning process is the core of the coursework. It's based on the involvement of the community as a whole in the end. Most of the course is based on education from the faculty and the peers. It is unique in that it focuses on the core concept of leadership in the community and the foundational principles needed in urban leadership.

## **Effectiveness/Evaluation/Assessment:**

ULLC enrolled its first class in Fall 2000 and experienced an impressive 86 percent, four-year graduation rate; the class of 2001 achieved a 90 percent four-year graduation rate. All 37 alumni are employed or enrolled in graduate school. 75-80 % of the students in the program are students of color or are first generation college students.