

My name is Aurora Schunk and I am here as a representative of Buffalo State College's Civic and Community Engagement Office, whose mission is to provide the tools and means with which students, faculty, staff, and community organizations can live out their values of active citizenship and social responsibility. We are happy the city is leading Census efforts and are happy to support the goals of the committee.

Although already deeply involved and committed to the Buffalo community, our office continues to develop and strengthen partnerships with organizations and leaders across the city. We view Census 2020 as a critical community effort that will have lasting impacts on our region.

The impact of accurately representing our community in Census 2020 cannot be understated. Through the civic engagement efforts of the office we will engage our students in community service and paid positions to ensure an accurate representation of the region, of which 2/3s of our students call home.

We are committed to ensuring the city's residents and college students are counted. We plan to assist with efforts across the campus and community to bolster the empowerment of young leaders with the tools to engage their neighbors in the count.

Data demonstrates how accurate Census reporting, even on a college campus, matters. In 2010 at Northwestern University, the college had a 98% response rate, as a result of campus efforts to count students in the Census. These efforts resulted in \$4.3 billion federal dollars being added to the city of Chicago in the last decade. This demonstrates the importance of an institution to a city and a region. Verifying that students residing on campus, in apartments, and in homes throughout the region are educated on the financial impact of the count will be a priority of our approach.

The issues and concerns of Census 2020 are not lost on us. We know that the "hard to count" communities have increased in size. In collaborating, educating, and empowering our students from the refugee and immigrant communities, we can play a role in ensuring this community is represented in the count in a way that respects and honors our neighbors.

In our partnerships with the city and more than a hundred nonprofits, we can support the work being done to accurately count the region's senior, homeless, transient, and formerly incarcerated populations. With technology at our fingertips we can assist with providing access to the new digital format of the count.

With institutional support of this work and our office's connections to broader networks, such as the West Side Promise Neighborhood and WNY Service Learning Coalition, we will be involved in this process with our community and higher education colleagues.

We welcome being a part of the conversations already in play and hope to assist with the broader mobilization of efforts. We are committed to being proactive and collaborating with community members as we frame and name the issues and concerns related to Census 2020 and working towards solutions.