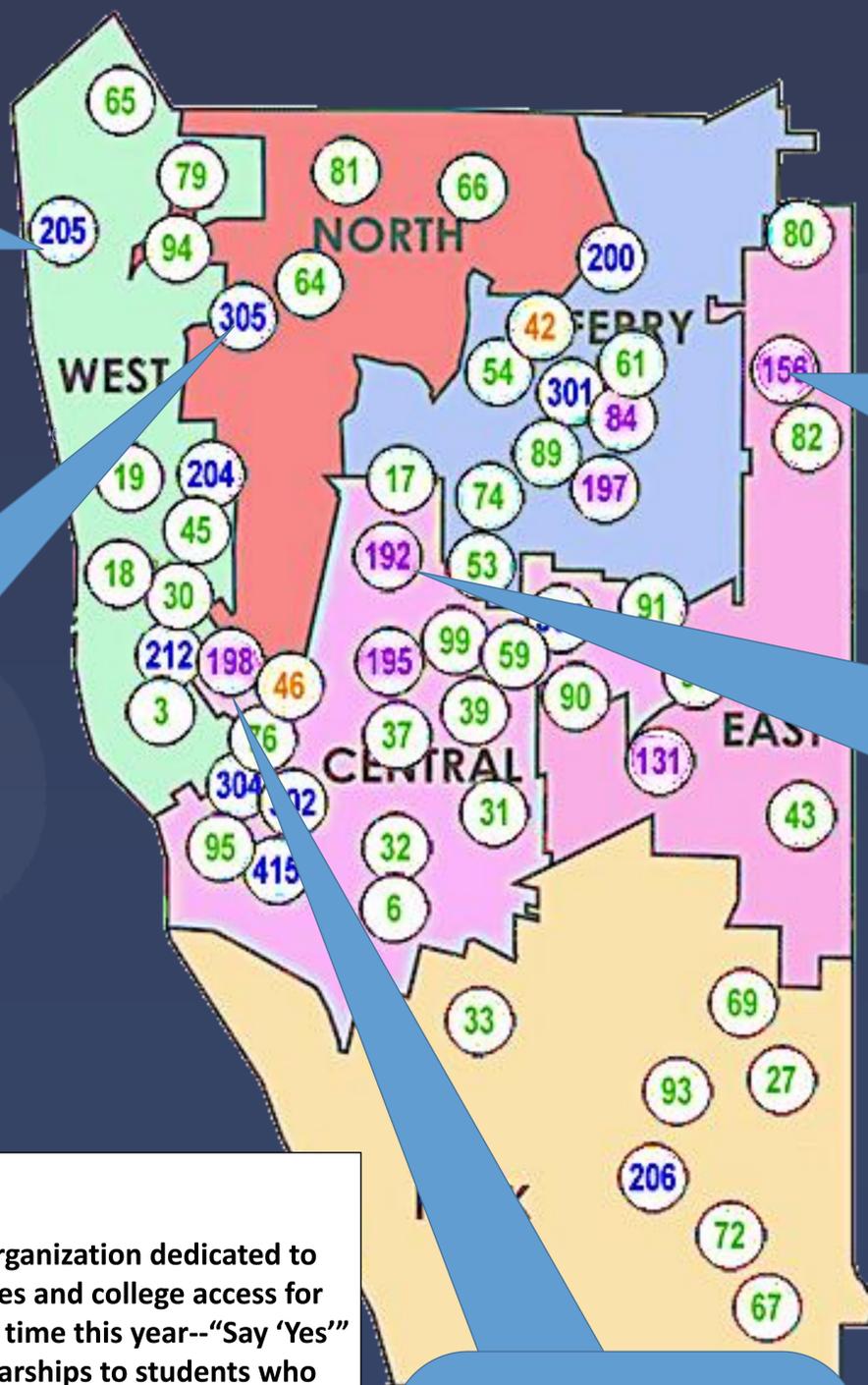


# Saying Yes to “Say ‘Yes’ to Education” in Buffalo

Doaa Ahmed, Kyle Davis, Jenni Helfer, Jasmin Jackson, Samantha Pangrazio, Gabriella Quartuccia, Victoria Robbins, Spencer Schultz

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At **Riverside High School**, “David was married and no longer lived at home.”  
– Kyle Davis

At **McKinley High School**, “Without your help, we would not even be close to the numbers we have.” - Dave Bogner (School Counselor)

At **Frederick Law Olmstead**, “Students hardly knew what the FAFSA was.”  
- Spencer Schultz

At **Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts**, “Students were very excited to start their journey to college!”  
- Jasmin Jackson

At **International Preparatory School**, “Kim did not know anything about her parents.”  
- Doaa Ahmed

### Abstract

“Say ‘Yes’ to Education” is a national non-profit organization dedicated to dramatically increasing high school graduation rates and college access for inner-city youth. In the City of Buffalo—for the first time this year--“Say ‘Yes’” offers full-tuition post-secondary education scholarships to students who meet residency, graduation, and admission requirements.

However, “Say ‘Yes’” is a last-dollar program: to claim the award students must be able to fill out and submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA) for all other available grants. Therefore the first step in saying “yes” to “Say ‘Yes’” is successful completion of the FAFSA, often a daunting prospect for these students and their parents.

A portion of the Spring 2013 Undergraduate Academies Civic Engagement class is participating in a larger volunteer effort by UB to help these students successfully complete their FAFSA forms. We have trained extensively for the special circumstances of the job, and between March and April will spend 40 hours each in fourteen out of sixteen of Buffalo’s public high schools. In the process we hope in some small way to model the benefits of college education for these students, and we anticipate learning much from them as well. We expect to help literally hundreds of Buffalo city students to “Say ‘Yes’ to Education.”

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