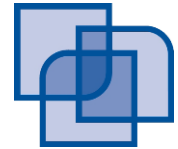


2017 Community Leader Education Award



David Rust



David is the Executive Director of Say Yes to Education- Buffalo, where he works to improve the education and lives of all Buffalo students. Say Yes is a huge program and undertaking, with great and lofty goals, and it is David's job to put the mechanisms in place, to manage the resources, and harness the energies of thousands of teachers, parents, students, and partners. With his belief in all students and his commitment to both detail and transparency, David is empowering an entire generation of students to succeed in school and ultimately in life.

A graduate of St. Bonaventure and long champion of education, David volunteers with numerous youth-based agencies in the City, and prior to Say Yes he was Director of the Erie County Youth Bureau and Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services/Social Services. He was the program director for the Youth Development Foundation of Dale Carnegie of WNY, and was the associate director, and a valuable administrator at the Sommerville College in England.

While Say Yes to Education is a national program, David recognized early on that what works in other regions might not work here. As such, he has been extremely adaptive in the design and delivery of Say Yes, Buffalo, making sure that the program fits the specific and unique needs of Buffalo and its students.

For his dedication to helping all students succeed in school and beyond, the NFJC is proud to present David Rust with the 2017 Community Leader Award in Education.



"...a just community begins with me!"

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