



**Western New York Local Economy Leaders**

***Scholarship Application***

***2013 BALLE Conference***

June 12-14, Buffalo, New York

The [Business Alliance for Local Living Economies](http://www.bealocalist.org) (BALLE) Annual Business Conference brings together hundreds of entrepreneurs and business owners, network leaders, economic developers, local government representatives and community connectors to explore innovative best practices in growing community health and prosperity. Each year, the BALLE conference demonstrates how the new economy is being shaped at the grassroots level in local communities around North America.

We are pleased to announce scholarships to our [2013 BALLE Conference](http://bealocalist.org/2013-balle-conference)being held June 12-14 in Buffalo, New York.

**Scholarship Fund for Western New York Local Economy Leaders**

The John R. Oishei Foundation has created a fund to allow at least 13 entrepreneurs and community network leaders from target regions of Western New York to attend the 2013 BALLE Conference, including Erie County and Niagara County, to explore how local ownership, social enterprise, and collaboration between businesses and communities can improve economic justice and generate real, lasting prosperity for all people.

We encourage you to share this application with others so we can continue to build a new economy that works for all people and for the planet.

**Application Deadline**

**To be eligible, please complete and submit the attached application by 11:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, April 19, 2013.** Completed applications should be emailed to scholarships@bealocalist.org. Please list “Western NY Scholarship Application” in the subject line.

**Scholarship Details**

BALLE and Buffalo First! seek scholarship applicants who will contribute to the diversity of the

localism movement and who might not otherwise be able to attend the BALLE conference. BALLE

and Buffalo First! are equal opportunity organizations, and yet we recognize that economic

opportunity is not currently equal. To this end, this scholarship fund with The John R. Oishei

Foundation prioritizes entrepreneurs and community network leaders from underrepresented

communities in Erie County, Niagara County, and beyond, including communities of color, low-income

communities, and women-led businesses and organizations. All are welcome to apply.

The scholarship includes:

* Free registration to the BALLE main conference ($595 value), including conference programming and all meals and evening celebrations for Wednesday night, June 12 through Friday night, June 14, 2013.

**Selection Process**

How we choose Western New York Scholarship Fund awardees:

* Because we want to keep growing our community, we give preference to people who have not received a BALLE conference scholarship in the past.
* Because we aim for our conference to create ripple effects in our larger movement, we give preference to applicants who see the BALLE conference as a catalyst for their work – and their attendance as a catalyst for the work of other attendees.
* Because we believe that truly transformative work happens when businesses and organizations come together within the context of place, we look for applicants who are bringing together businesses and partners in their community.
* Because this scholarship funds seeks to engage entrepreneurs who are underrepresented in the localism movement, we give preference to applicants of economic need who represent communities of color, low-income communities, and women-led organizations.

We will inform you on or before May 3 whether you are awarded a scholarship.

Thank you for your interest in joining us at the 2013 BALLE Conference, and for your vital work to build a local living economy in your community.

**Questions?** Please contact the BALLE staff at scholarships@bealocalist.org.

**2013 Western New York Scholarship Application**

*Due: April 19, 2013, 11:00pm Eastern Time*

**Personal Information:**

Name:

Email Address:

Primary Phone:

City/Town:

County:

Business/organization/school:

How did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

Have you attended the BALLE conference in the past?

Is your businesses/organization a member of Buffalo First!?

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*As noted above, BALLE seeks applicants from Western New York who will contribute to the diversity of the localism movement. In particular, this fund targets entrepreneurs and community network leaders from underrepresented communities in Erie and Niagara Counties and beyond, including communities of color, low-income communities, and women-led businesses.*

How would you identify yourself? (Please check all that apply.)

[ ] African American

[ ] Asian American

[ ] Caucasian

[ ] Latino/Hispanic

[ ] Native American or Alaska Native

[ ] Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

[ ] Other – please describe:

Please answer the following questions about yourself and your business or organization (Please check all that apply.):

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[ ] I am from an underrepresented community

[ ] My business is located in an underrepresented community

[ ] My business impacts underrepresented communities

[ ] My business is woman-led

[ ] My business is led by a person(s) of color

For any of the boxes you checked above, please tell us a bit more about your community.

Would you be able to attend the BALLE conference if you did not receive this scholarship? Please explain.

For brief essay questions, please see next page.

**Everyone has a different story to tell, and we want to hear yours. We’re asking these questions not only to select our Western New York Scholarship Fund awardees, but also to begin to develop a relationship with you.**

**In one (typed, single spaced) page or less, please respond to the following questions:**

1. How are you and your business or organization advancing one or more [tenets](http://www.livingeconomies.org/building-blocks) of localism in your community? ([See here](http://bealocalist.org/Localism-101) for an outline of localism principles.)
2. BALLE believes that, although a single business can have a huge positive impact, the most transformative local economic development work happens when local businesses work together in the context of their place (more on this [here](http://bealocalist.org/why-we-do-work)). How are you working in to bring local businesses together for the health, prosperity, and sustainability of your community?
3. What do you want to gain from the conference and how will this experience catalyze your work after the conference is complete?