



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: Buffalo Urban Teaching Fellows (BUTF)

Only when students' different backgrounds, ideas, and abilities are embraced can true and effective education take place.

-BUTF Cohort 2 Fellow



Background:

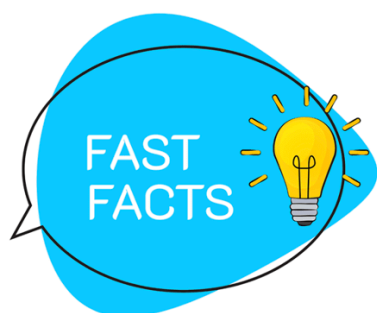
Buffalo Urban Teaching Fellows (BUTF) launched in 2023 in partnership with TNTP, a national leader in teacher recruitment and development. The Cullen Foundation of Western New York, Inc. is a proud sponsor of the BUTF program, which is a cornerstone of Cullen's human capital strategy.

Since 2020, Cullen's grant commitment to the BUTF initiative **totals nearly \$3.4 million:**

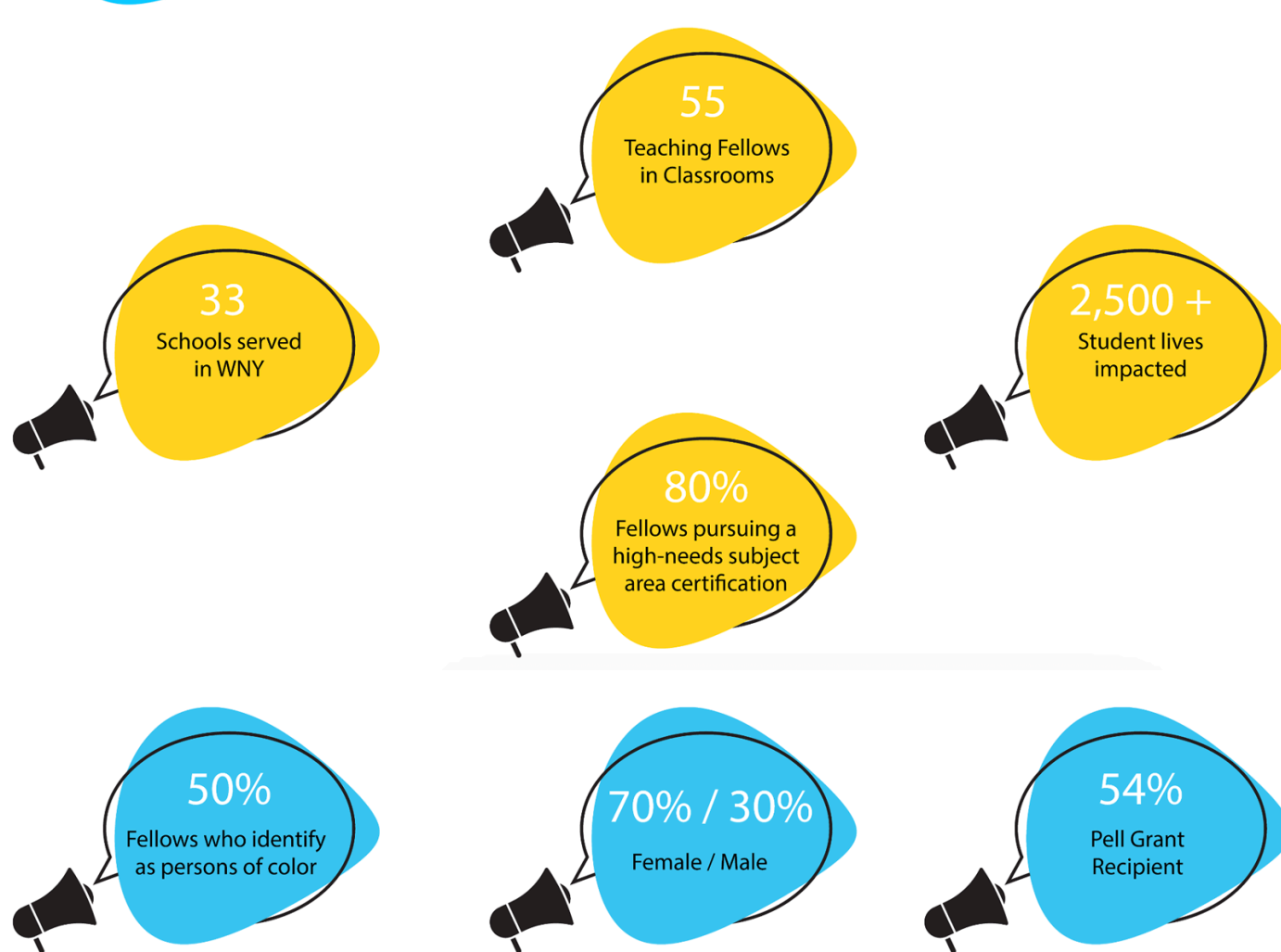
- Seed funding for research, analysis and partnership outreach, leading to BUTF's formation: **\$459,690**
- Multi-year funding for BUTF's staffing and operations through 2027: **\$2,095,207**
- Direct tuition & stipend support committed to Cohort One and Cohort Two Fellows: **\$810,827**

Mission:

Buffalo Urban Teaching Fellows (BUTF) is an "earn and learn" teacher training program. It provides aspiring teachers ("Fellows") with a paid role in a school and significant tuition assistance while they pursue certification and transition to a teaching career. With embedded development opportunities and a cohort experience, this program helps Fellows make a meaningful difference in the lives of local students.



Fast Facts on Fellows as of September 2024



Partnership - Who Does What:

Through TNTP, BUTF provides outreach, recruitment, mentoring, wraparound services, and other supports to Fellows.

BUTF is led by Director Melissa A. Lopez, an award-winning educator with deep expertise in teacher development, experience as a teacher leader, and more than a decade of classroom teaching experience. Melissa and TNTP are leading the work of BUTF and are in the early phases of working with a local organization to support the future work of BUTF.

Contact Melissa at: melissa.lopez@tntp.org



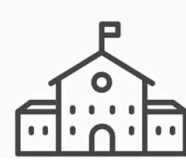
WNY teacher preparation programs enroll Fellows as they earn degrees and certifications. Currently 55 Fellows are earning their master's degrees at these teacher preparation programs.



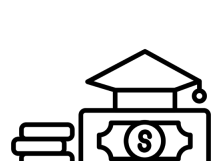
Also, we look forward to partnering with St. Bonaventure University in the near future!

Local Buffalo schools provide the aspiring teachers with a paid role in their school where Fellows serve as "resident teachers."

Partner schools for the 55 Fellows for SY 2024-2025 are:



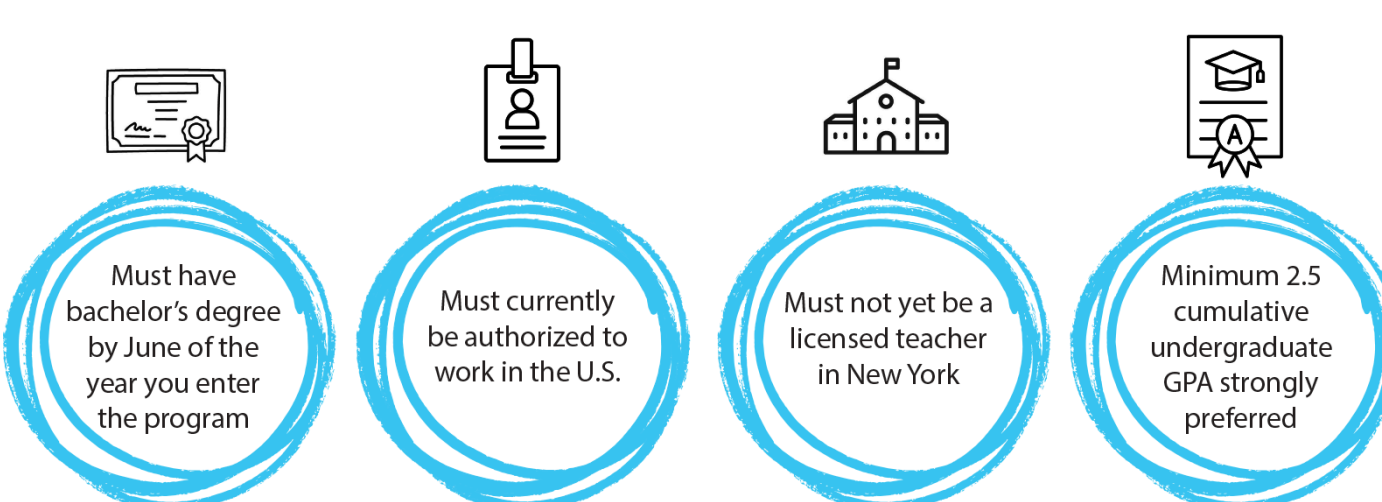
- Buffalo Public Schools (multiple schools)
- Buffalo Academy of Science (BuffSci)
- Buffalo Commons Charter School
- Buffalo United Charter School
- Charter School for Applied Technologies (CSAT)
- Elmwood Village Charter School
- Health Sciences Charter School
- Persistence Preparatory Academy
- Stanley G. Falk School (multiple schools)
- Tapestry Charter School
- Westminster Community Charter School



✓ The Cullen Foundation provides aspiring teachers with **\$2,500 - \$12,500*** in tuition assistance and a **\$2,500*** one-time start up stipend while they pursue certification and transition to a teaching career.

✓ *Financial assistance for the 2025 cohort [Cohort Three] will be updated in March 2025.

Explore eligibility and more info about the BUTF:



BUTF staff helps potential Fellows select the local certification program that best fits their career goals and personal circumstances and guide candidates through the enrollment process.

- ✓ Contact an admissions coach to explore your options: butf@teachbuffalo.org
- ✓ Contact Melissa Lopez, BUTF Director with other questions at: melissa.lopez@tntp.org
- ✓ Visit the TEACH BUFFALO website for additional information on teaching in Buffalo: <https://www.teachbuffalo.org/butf>



Call to Action for Cullen's newsletter readers:

BUTF seeks individuals who are highly motivated to launch a teaching career in Buffalo's district or non-profit charter schools. Potential candidates may include paraprofessionals, teacher's assistants, uncertified teachers, recent graduates or current college seniors as well as those who've had a successful career and now desire to pursue a more fulfilling path.

Overall, BUTF seeks passionate, talented people who believe that every student can achieve at the highest level and are committed to helping them get there. Contact BUTF today and/or share this newsletter with a friend or colleague who may be interested in Cohort Three -- this application will launch in February/March 2025.

