

From the Buffalo Business First

[:http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/print-edition/2015/07/03/health-foundation-for-central-and-western-new-york.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/print-edition/2015/07/03/health-foundation-for-central-and-western-new-york.html)

Health Foundation for Central and Western New York builds leaders

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT: Jul 3, 2015, 6:00am EDT



[Tracey Drury](#)

Buffalo Business First Reporter- Buffalo Business First

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)

A locally created health-care leadership training program is shifting to the national stage.

The Health Foundation for Central and Western New York is working with four communities around the country to replicate its Health Leadership Fellows Program. Created in 2005, the program gives health care executives the tools they need to grow and take their organizations to the next level. The program links leaders across agencies who come away ready to tackle community problems collaboratively.

"Our goal really in the long term was to create a cadre of collaborative leaders who would work together across organizations on programs of importance," said [Ann Monroe](#), foundation president.

She discussed the program at a recent Grantmakers in Health national conference.

Based in Buffalo, the foundation is among the region's largest private foundations, with assets totaling \$120.4 million in 2014. [Virginia Oehler](#) leads the local program, which now has a fifth cohort due to graduate next spring. She's working with the Missouri Foundation for Health to develop a similar program.

Fellows are "discovering things they didn't know they needed and practicing these new skills in a safe place," she said. "It tends, then, to expand the leaders' thinking."

Tracey Drury covers health/medical, nonprofits and insurance