

What are the Information Needs of Communities & Citizens? Affordable internet for every Western New Yorker is essential to providing a democratic society. The internet continues to be used for news information as well as becoming the primary source for information surrounding postsecondary institutions making it a vital component for college access issues. Additionally, the corporate oligarchy that controls the majority of the media is threatening the web by raising fees and tightening the internet space. Not to mention, cable rates continue to increase faster than the rate of inflation.

How is Commercial Media Serving Your Community?

Currently, Time Warner Cable is the only cable provider in WNY. This monopoly allows the corporation to raise cable rates faster than the rate of inflation without any regulation. Further, Time Warner and Verizon are the two major internet providers causing them to control the market price of the internet - which is not a commodity for them to control or sell. Media ownership regulation is vital to our democracy and freedom to information.

What is the State of Noncommercial, Nonprofit, and Public Media?

WNED provides the public broadcasting that serves a bi-national region of 3.1 million households across Western New York and Southern Ontario with high-quality programming and services that enlighten, inspire, entertain, and educate our communities (Radio & TV)

The Buffalo News is the only newspaper for the WNY area, which is owned by Warren Buffet. There are a few alternative newspapers in Buffalo - Artvoice is the main paper.

What is the Impact of the Internet and Mobile Information?

Affordable, high speed internet is necessary in our community in order to maintain a democratic distribution of information and opportunities. The Buffalo News has a website, along with the three major local news outlets (wivb.com, wkbw.com, wgrz.com), that stream local news, weather, sports, and job openings to the members of the community. Social networking is a means of dissemination of information and news through outlets like Facebook, Twitter, and Email. I recently discovered President Obama was visiting my city next week because of a post on Twitter with the tag #buffalo.

I graduated with a BA in Communication Studies from Niagara University in 2002 and concentrated in media ownership and policy. I would definitely be willing to collaborate with Free Press or Stop Big Media at the local level. I've read most of Robert McChesney's books and credit him with my first "A Ha!" moment in college when I read "Rich Media, Poor Democracy". Keep up the good work!

