

MISSION Create a collaborative environment—with entrepreneurial innovation and best business practices—to foster public-private dialogue. Create the capacity to transform policy, systems, people, and communities to advance social, civic and economic participation in a global society

for people with disabilities and their families.



DEAR FRIENDS,

Just over a year ago we opened the doors to the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University with clear goals and high hopes to advance the civic, economic, and social participation of persons with disabilities and their families worldwide. As we look back over the past year, I am proud to say that we were true to our mission and have set a meaningful and productive long-term course.

To begin with, much has been accomplished to create a collaborative environment across the Syracuse University campus, engaging students and faculty in multidisciplinary research and leadership development. We have established programs and research that truly exemplify Scholarship in Action. These have included partnerships established on and off campus to promote understanding of business culture and the effect on workers with disabilities and our first summer leadership program in conjunction with the Syracuse University College of Law, which brought students to Washington, D.C., to engage with decision makers on public policy development and the impact on children and adults with disabilities.

Whether it is the amount of new funding, the number of research projects initiated, or the breadth and scope of public-private dialogue and collaboration, there is clear evidence of an invigorated commitment to finding new solutions to issues facing persons with disabilities and their families.

BBI is built on a solid foundation established by Burton Blatt. His legacy serves as an inspiration as we work to break down barriers to community inclusion and participation. On October 10, 2006, we honored Burt at our first BBI Celebration Breakfast. The program still reverberates as one of those rare events where everyone leaves inspired and moved to do more.

Our progress would not be possible without another leader who motivates and inspires us—our partner on the SU Hill—Nancy Cantor, Chancellor and President of Syracuse University. Her vision of Scholarship in Action and her commitment to advancing the participation of persons with disabilities across the campus, across disciplines, and in the community have opened minds and many doors.

On behalf of BBI, I extend an invitation to join us in the work ahead. Please stay in touch with the work we are doing through our web site: *bbi.syr.edu*. Find out about our research, leadership training, and innovative program development activities and how to partner with us. We have accomplished much and there is more work to be done. Together we can help shape a world where every person is valued.



Peter Blanck Chairman of the Burton Blatt Institute and University Professor

Nancy Cantor Chancellor and President of Syracuse University

A MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR NANCY CANTOR

We are proud to be home to the Burton Blatt Institute—the first institute of its kind located within a major university. For Syracuse University, BBI exemplifies Scholarship in Action as it works with faculty and students across all disciplines to build the next generation of leaders who embrace human differences, cross boundaries, and extend themselves in collaborations to make a better world. Across the SU campus, we are working with BBI to create a unified, cohesive institution that focuses on economic, social and civic empowerment of all people with and without disabilities.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we are excited about the work ahead. BBI is partnering with all our colleges and schools. Some examples include the exciting leadership program with the College of Law and the Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship of the Whitman School of Management to support self-employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities through training programs and student mentors. With the Maxwell School, BBI is helping to support innovative conferences on aging and disability. With the Newhouse School, BBI is mentoring students on the study of the portrayal of people with disabilities in the media. The list and the work go on as BBI engages in multiple research, educational, and outreach projects that will lead to positive change for persons with disabilities.

We are proud to help realize BBI's other objective—to advance SU as a model institution of higher education that promotes effective and meaningful participation of faculty and students with disabilities. With BBI's leadership a campus-wide task force is exploring ways to further an accessible campus and inclusive learning environment.

Together we are a powerful force for change. I look forward to great strides in the coming years and challenge students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other SU partners to become involved in making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

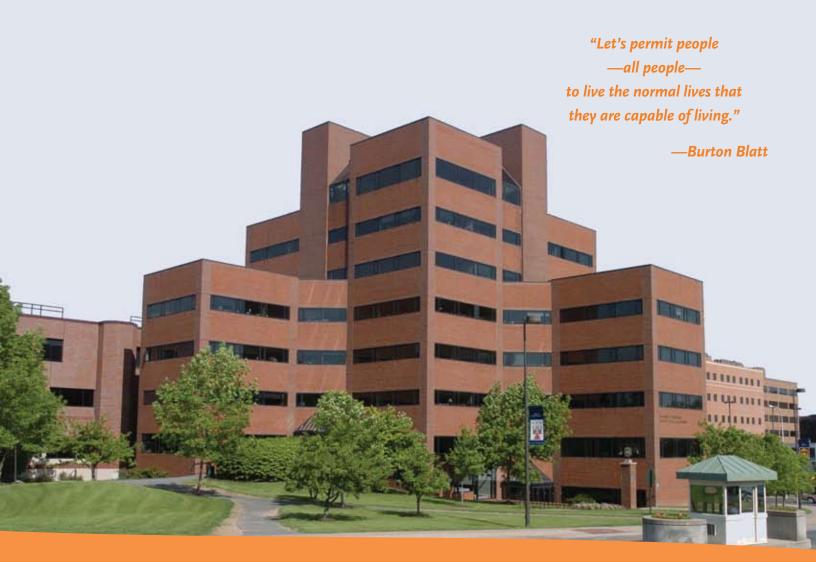
Nancy Cantor

Chancellor and President of Syracuse University

any Cantor

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

The Burton Blatt Institute: Centers of Innovation on Disability at Syracuse University was established to advance the civic, economic, and social participation of persons with disabilities. Named in honor of Burton Blatt, the institute opened its doors November 1, 2005, inspired by the legacy and work of this pioneer and national leader in special education. As the first institute of its kind located in and affiliated with a major university, BBI has distinguished itself as a problem solver, building a reputation as a vital resource and partner for advocates, educators, businesses, and legislators working to better the lives of people with disabilities.



OBJECTIVE ONE

To become the premier law and disability policy research institute with a focus on civil rights, employment, and economic empowerment.



Shelley Kaplan Director, DBTAC: Southeast ADA Center

"The DBTAC program is a premier example of Chancellor Nancy Cantor's Scholarship in Action initiative as we work to promote awareness about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accessible information technology in education, and the rights and abilities of people with disabilities. The DBTAC provides technical assistance, materials dissemination, training, referrals, and public awareness to anyone with rights and responsibilities under the ADA."

—Shelly Kaplan

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

 \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation.

The objective during this five-year project is to increase understanding and knowledge about the hiring and retention of workers with disabilities from an employer perspective.

\$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy.

This 18-month grant funds in-depth case studies of the employment of persons with disabilities in the new global economy. Working with Fortune 100 and smaller case-study companies, BBI will investigate connections between corporate culture and the employment of people with disabilities.

 \$5.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).

BBI will lead an Atlanta-based Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC: Southeast ADA Center) that services the Southeastern United States. Southeast DBTAC is an exemplary resource for information, training, and technical assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to meet the needs of businesses, people with disabilities, state and local governments, and multiple other stakeholders throughout the Southeast. With renewed funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) for the next five years, the Southeast DBTAC will continue and expand its mission to facilitate voluntary implementation of the ADA by providing five core services: (1) information dissemination, (2) education and training, (3) technical assistance, (4) information referral, and (5) public awareness events. In addition, the Southeast DBTAC will implement an innovative research plan to reduce and eliminate barriers to employment and economic self-sufficiency and to increase the civic and social participation of Americans with disabilities.

In collaboration with faculty at the Syracuse University College of Law, School of Information Studies, School of Education, and Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, BBI staff are:

- evaluating emergency preparedness and recovery policies that have impacted persons with disabilities in the Gulf Coast region to develop future policy recommendations for the U.S. Departments of Labor and Homeland Security;
- analyzing geographic growth trends in job creation and industry characteristics to project appropriate skills training for working-age adults with disabilities; and
- exploring new relationships between financial institutions and disability related organizations to create new opportunities for enhanced economic freedom.



BBI established a partnership with the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR). BBI and CIR are working together to expand the scope and reach of the International Disability Rights Monitor (IDRM) project that works to advance the use of international law in ensuring that human rights of people with disabilities are respected and enforced around the globe.



María Verónica Reina Director of International Relations

"In developing countries as well as in countries with stronger economies, people with disabilities face countless barriers to inclusion and participation. By documenting the violations of their rights worldwide, we establish the foundation for an evidence-based approach to advocacy."

—María Verónica Reina



Hannah R. Arterian Dean and Professor of Law

"The College of Law and BBI are engaged in developing broad partnerships that further the area of disability civil rights and that enhance the educational mission of the law school and the University."

—Hannah R. Arterian

OBJECTIVE TWO

To foster next generation of leaders across multiple disciplines



Michael Morris Disability Leadership Program Coordinator

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

BBI has generated excitement on the SU campus by infusing a disability perspective across all SU schools and disciplines. In its first year, BBI has begun the dialogue with students and faculty across the campus. BBI funded the first-of-its-kind Disability Policy Leadership Program for SU law students in Washington, D.C. This program provided a highly structured opportunity for the first group of four students to learn first hand about the public policy making process from a disability perspective and to engage in research and writing on statutory and regulatory issues impacting persons with disabilities and their families. Four law students have been selected to participate in the summer of 2007.



Michael King, Annette Sawicki, U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Emily Cosentino, Bert Kaufman, Bobby Silverstein

"Our first Disability Policy Leadership Program was an overwhelming success. Students not only had an intense learning experience; their work resulted in effecting real change on policy and law that have an impact on people with disabilities."

-Michael Morris

INFUSING DISABILITY AGENDA ACROSS CAMPUS

BBI Senior Researcher and Adjunct Law Professor William N. Myhill directed diverse student participation on a wide range of BBI research projects, including accessible information technology as workplace accommodations, veterans with disabilities returning to work, predatory lending practices targeting people with disabilities and the elderly, accessible distance learning, and understanding employer-demand characteristics for qualified workers with disabilities, among others. Graduate students engage in applied learning experiences that bring their emerging expertise in law, education, information studies, communications, management, disability studies, engineering, and international relations to bear on innovative projects and cutting-edge research.

Other exciting projects and collaborations:

- BBI is collaborating with Professor Derrick Cogburn in the School of Information Studies to design new approaches to distance learning and building social networks.
- Meera Adya leads BBI's research programs in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences. Adya is currently involved in multiple research projects in employer-demand and emergency-preparation research.
- BBI has begun discussions with deans and professors in the School of Architecture, the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, Newhouse School of Public Communications, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and Upstate Medical University to consider the appointment of graduate students as BBI fellows for a semester to work with BBI researchers on relevant disability issues.
- With the Center on Property, Citizenship, and Social Entrepreneurship and its director, Professor Robin Malloy in the School of Law, students will

William Myhill Senior Research Associate

earn a certificate in advanced property studies that includes an independent research project addressing issues of ownership for people with disabilities and successful economic advancement.



Meera Adya Director of Research

"BBI's strength is our ability to conduct scientifically rigorous and yet practically relevant research; the findings from our projects translate to trainings and policies that are effective because they are evidence based. By collaborating with Syracuse University faculty and our national and international partners, we are infusing disciplines with a disability agenda and mentoring the next generation of leaders to always contemplate inclusiveness for all as a guiding principle in their work."

—Meera Adya

"Putting students to work on real issues that affect the day-today lives of people with disabilities is an important aspect of the learning process. Through their projects with BBI, students will develop a better understanding of the issues surrounding people with disabilities, as they develop skills that will serve them well as future leaders in the field."

—William Myhill

OBJECTIVE THREE

Establish BBI as a problem solver and innovator.



Charlie Hammerman Managing Director, BBI NYC

"We are very grateful to the Citigroup Foundation for having the courage to explore an issue which does not get much attention in society. We anticipate that new paradigms on housing for people with disabilities will be the result of our research with OFN."

—Charlie Hammerman

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

From designing accessible housing to promoting new health care solutions, BBI has been engaged by business and government in the United States and around the world to design and test innovation in policy, products, systems, and services. BBI is in discussions with several major corporations to do case studies to solve human resource issues related to diversity and an inclusive workforce.

BBI is gaining a reputation as a problem solver, promoting dialogue and designing new solutions that advance economic self-sufficiency and family stability. In fact, the strength of BBI is in its ability to craft partnerships with other University research centers, the business community, and government agencies. To date, BBI's education and research activities have resulted in important collaborations throughout the nation and the world.

My Work Onondaga Initiative. This three-year, \$1-million-plus community project brings together BBI and other highly skilled partners to provide a customized, intensive, and well-rounded training, technical assistance, counseling, and support program for people with disabilities interested in self-employment. The goal of this community-level initiative is to develop a sustainable, replicable, and comprehensive best practices model for improving the self-employment outcomes of persons with disabilities.

\$50,000 Grant from Citigroup Foundation. As part of its overall mission to explore "Disability Innovation," BBI NYC focuses on developing a better understanding of the housing market for people with disabilities. Funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Citigroup Foundation, Managing Director Charlie Hammerman is spearheading a six-month research project to explore the current and future landscape of housing solutions. BBI was fortunate to have the Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) as its partner on this project. OFN is the leading national membership organization of community development financial institutions and affordable housing developers. BBI and OFN conducted a national survey and numerous interviews with key stakeholders; a final report is due out in spring 2007.

BBI INNOVATION GRANTS

BBI offers Innovation Grants to support and stimulate innovative thinking, research, design, entrepreneurship, and community development addressing disability, broadly defined to include law, policy, arts, education, social sciences, architecture, health, technology, liberal arts, community service, and other areas. Each recipient will receive a \$5,000 stipend (paid to his or her home college if faculty, staff, or student of SU) to defray expenses and compensate for the required development of the proposed project over the course of one year.

"Paths for Water, Paths for Wheels" —Timothy Stenson, Associate Professor of Architecture, Syracuse University. This project will examine multiple characteristics of landscape surfaces in relation to wheelchair accessibility and storm water run-off, and develop and incorporate applications of surfaces as path

systems within the design for a new housing development in Syracuse.

"Literacy, Community, and Photography" — Marion Wilson, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Community Liaison in the Visual Arts, Syracuse University. This project is designed to encourage children to explore their worlds as they photograph scenes from their lives, and then use these images as catalysts for verbal and written expression. It takes place at Ed Smith Elementary School in Syracuse, a pioneer school for inclusive education.



"Internet Video Interpreting for Remote American Sign Language

(ASL) Services"—Murali Venkatesh, Associate Professor, School of Information Studies. Phase-one research of this project involves three research sites, all located in Syracuse, and relates to the prospect of Internet-delivered ASL services. In phase two, health care facilities in a 14-county area in New York State will be surveyed on their readiness for complying with the new New York State stipulations on access to ASL services and on prospects for adopting Internet-delivered ASL services.

Dancing Dreams recital and video—Dancing Dreams is a ballet program designed for children with physical challenges. It gives the participants the opportunity to experience movement within their own physical capabilities. BBI will fund a performance recital and production costs for the recital video, made possible by the generosity of the Sharyn and Stuart Frankel Endowment for Dreams.

OBJECTIVE FOUR

Become the premier university nationwide that advances effective and meaningful participation of faculty and students with disabilities.



Brian McLane with Governor Hugh Carey (2006)



Brian McLane with Governor Hugh Carey (1977)

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

BBI's efforts to raise awareness and accessibility across the SU campus have begun through a campus-wide task force to explore options and develop a plan for an inclusive and accessible campus and learning environment. Through future initiatives, BBI will work with Syracuse University, the City of Syracuse, and Onondaga County to become a model for the nation and the world of the possibilities of a truly inclusive community. For SU, it will become the preferred choice of students with disabilities to study and faculty with disabilities to teach. A new generation of leaders across disciplines of law, education, business, architecture, technology, communications, and the social sciences will emerge, sharing an understanding of the value of all persons. They will recognize that everyone contributes to the social and economic vitality of environments that are universally designed to enhance access and use.

BRIAN MCLANE entered Syracuse University

in 1964 with all the anticipation and anxiety of any first-year student. But Brian's concerns went beyond what classes to take and which fraternity to pledge. Before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or any other protections for people with disabilities, Brian was trying to get to class.

Overcoming obstacles is something that Brian was born to. Using a wheelchair since childhood due to cerebral palsy, he chose to go to a college that offered him the best educational opportunities for the interests he wanted to pursue. But in those days the SU campus—like most other colleges around the country—was virtually inaccessible to anyone who made their way in a wheelchair.

"I wanted a degree in radio and television," Brian says. "SU was the best place for me to get that degree. The University limited me to nine credits a semester my first two years on campus while we worked out the logistics of how I would traverse the campus. I spent a lot of time looking for broken curbs and driveways to get my wheelchair over. But I pushed through—and got a lot of help from friends—including the basketball team, which used to hoist me up and down stairs. Coach Lewis would say I was the team's secret conditioning device. I was lucky. I was born into the right family. When I was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, my parents were told that I would be better off in a developmental center. Instead they became my advocates and activists regarding issues facing people with disabilities and their families. My parents and people of their generation were the pioneers in accessibility."

Growing up in Syracuse, Brian attended Percy Hughes School for children with disabilities from 3rd through 10th grade. It was during this time his father waged a successful battle against the Westhill Central School District seeking admission for their disabled son. Brian was enrolled, completed his high school coursework, and was the first student in a wheelchair to graduate from Westhill High School.

Brian completed a bachelor's degree in radio and television at SU and went on for a master's degree in sports administration at Ohio University. No high curbs or stairways have stopped him in his career, which has included managing rock and roll bands; accepting political appointments as director of parks and recreation for the town of Cicero, New York; serving as assistant commissioner of parks and recreation and historic preservation in the Cuomo administration and as assistant commissioner at the New York State Education Department; and working as a public relations and marketing executive. He is also an avid SU sports booster and fan. Throughout his rich and rewarding career, Brian has been a passionate voice for removing the obstacles facing people with disabilities.

Brian's work continues. From his home in Albany, he travels the world raising awareness and influencing policy change. As executive director of the Burton Blatt Institute, he has embraced the objective to take Syracuse University beyond compliance and create a national model of accommodation for students and faculty, alumni, guests, and employees with accessibility challenges. "All of us at BBI have a responsibility to carry out the legacy of Burton Blatt," Brian says. "Inclusion must not be a special event but a way of thinking and a component of the dialogue, education, and change throughout all 12 colleges

on the SU campus and on college campuses around the world."



McLane (1951) at a Halloween party at Convalescent Home, Auburn, NY



McLane with Bob Hopkins and Larry Costello, members of the Syracuse Nationals NBA basketball team



McLane and Hadwyn (Had) Fuller, fraternity brothers and good friends

CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

On the morning of October 10, nearly 400 people gathered in a ballroom at the Pierre Hotel in New York City for an event that was 40 years in the making. Educators, advocates, business leaders, artists, politicians, family, and friends came to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the publication of Burton Blatt's seminal work *Christmas in Purgatory* (co-authored with Fred Kaplan) that led directly to the signing by Governor Hugh Carey of the 1975 Willowbrook Consent Decree. Blatt's work and words serve as an inspiration and guide for those who continue the work at the Burton Blatt Institute, which shared the celebration to mark its one-year anniversary.

On the program that morning were speakers and an honoree with personal connections to the issues and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. Matt Sapolin, commissioner of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities of New York City, was master of ceremonies. Peter Blanck, chairman of the Burton Blatt Institute, renowned for his work in the field of disability law, spoke

of the work of the institute. Nancy

Cantor, Chancellor and President of Syracuse

University, shared her

also spoke poignantly of the challenges and

triumphs of her son with

autism. George F. Will,

syndicated columnist

and author, delivered

the keynote address on

the movement inspired

by Burton Blatt and

included the story of his son who has Down syndrome. Perhaps the most moving moment of the program came with the introduction of honoree Hugh L. Carey by Bernard Carabello, a

disability rights activist

and recognized national leader of the selfadvocacy movement,

vision of Scholarship in Action and, as a mother,



George Will, Governor Carey, Nancy Cantor, Peter Blanck



Peter Blanck, Larry Bashe, Shelley Kaplan, Joshua H. Heintz



Commissioner Matt Sapolin Master of Ceremonies

The Burton Blatt
Institute video was shown
for the first time at the
Celebration Breakfast.
Find accessible formats on
our web site at
bbi.syr.edu/
archives/bbi_video_o6

who spent 18 years of his life shut away inside the Willowbrook State School. Governor Carey took to the podium to accept his most deserved recognition.

The celebration breakfast guests filtered out of the Pierre Hotel, accompanied by colleagues, family, and friends, into the warmth of that October morning, newly inspired and filled with hope for a not-too-distant future where everyone is included.

POST BREAKFAST EDUCATIONAL FORUM:

"Where will we be in 2020?"

Immediately following the Celebration Breakfast, BBI hosted a public forum at Syracuse University's Lubin House in New York City. A distinguished panel of experts led the discussion as they provided a glimpse of the future for persons with

disabilities in a global society.

The forum was moderated by nationally recognized public policy expert Michael Morris and featured an outstanding panel of experts: Doug Biklen, dean of the School of Education and director of the Facilitated Communication Institute at Syracuse University; Derrick Cogburn, assistant professor. School of Information Studies and director of the Collaboratory on Technology Enhanced Learning Communities (COTELCO), the award-winning research lab at Syracuse University; Matt Sapolin, commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities; and Berthy De La Rosa-Aponte and her husband, Milton Aponte, parents and presidential appointees to the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel and the National Council on Disability. Each panelist shared his or her unique vision and perspective on the future of a more inclusive society.



Charlie Hammerman, Nancy Cantor, Don McPherson



Steven and Eleanor Hammerman, George Will, Peter Blanck, Ethel Blatt, Charlie Hammerman



Bernard Carabello Disability Rights Activist

Perhaps the most moving moment of the breakfast came with the introduction of honoree Hugh L. Carey by Bernard Carabello, who spent 18 years of his life shut away inside the Willowbrook State School.

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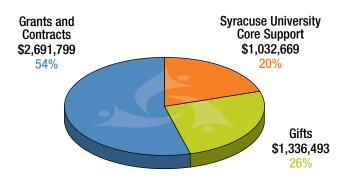
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FINANCIAL VIEW BBI INCOME

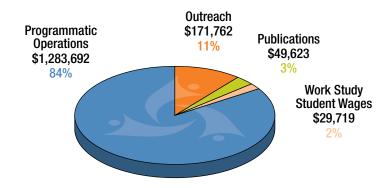
Since beginning operations in September 2005, BBI has received \$5,060,961 in income support from Syracuse University, donor gifts, grants, and contracts from federal, state, and local governments, as well as support from private companies in New York and across the country. Additional funding commitments span the next five years, and BBI's financial position is very strong. BBI continues to secure funds to enhance the economic, social, and civic empowerment of people with disabilities in a global society. Among the most significant support is a gift in honor of Burton Blatt, from the Stephen & Eleanor Hammerman Foundation. This gift, along with others, continues to advance Blatt's legacy that all people have value. We are particularly indebted to Ethel Blatt for her interest and support.



The chart above breaks down BBI income into three major categories. The long-term strength of BBI will be to continue to gather support from both the public and private sectors.

FINANCIAL VIEW BBI EXPENSES

BBI's expenses since inception totaled \$1,363,034.61. Funding supports BBI's program operations, including support for our faculty and professional staff, and subcontractors. Outreach was conducted through speaking engagements, the Celebration Breakfast, and other presentations at state, regional, national, and international conferences and meetings. Publications include producing and distributing copies of our research, the production of the BBI web site with its vast archive of materials, reprinting of Burton Blatt's Christmas in Purgatory, development of Blatt's archive in the Syracuse University library system, and production of the BBI video to help make diverse audiences aware of the vision and values of the institute.



BBI's expenses are broken out into four categories, with the greatest percentage of funds, more than 84 percent, being used to directly support program operations, which include research, education, model demonstration projects, and capacity-building activities.

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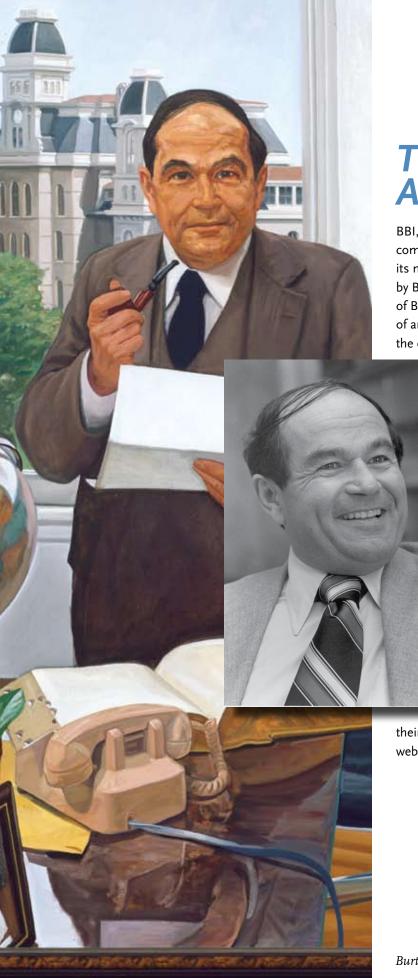
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THE BURTON BLATT ARCHIVES CREATED

BBI, in conjunction with the Syracuse University Archives, completed a historic review and archive of the complete papers of its namesake, Burton Blatt. The complete collection was funded by BBI and executed by SU Archives. It includes an online archive of Blatt's major pieces. A team led by Edward L. Galvin, director of archives and records management, organized and catalogued the collection. "Blatt was a prolific writer and lecturer whose

words continue to inspire and teach," says Peter Blanck, BBI chair and University Professor at SU. "We are proud to make his vision available to a whole new generation."

Before SU Archives organized and catalogued the 127 boxes of Blatt's materials, Charles Hammerman, managing director of BBI's New York office and Blatt's nephew, had the opportunity to review the collection. "These papers cover the professional portion of Burt's life as a teacher, administrator and advocate for people with disabilities. Now, current and future students, researchers and anyone who is interested will have access to this rich piece of disability history," Hammerman says.

Major pieces from Blatt's papers were also digitally formatted and are available on a dedicated web site, archives.syr.edu/arch/faculty/blatt. Visitors to the web site are invited to share

their memories of Blatt. There is also a link to the archive on BBI's web site, bbi.syr.edu.

Burton Blatt from Portrait by Gary B. Trento

LIST OF DONORS

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