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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2010

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FACING OUR FUTURE

THE BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Bridget Quinn-Carey, director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System, presented a talk on *Facing Our Future* today as part of the “Imagining Buffalo Niagara in the 21st Century,” lunchtime lecture series. Speaking before a large crowd, Ms. Quinn-Carey stressed the challenges facing the regional 37-branch Public Library System and libraries nationwide.

“We have had an increase in demand for many library services – more visitors, more computer time reservations, a great and growing interest in downloadable books and music,” stated Quinn-Carey. “But we all know that unpredictable changes in the economy make a huge impact in how we serve and service our 3.9 million annual library visitors.”

New library models stress flexible real time services, e-branches, creative system-wide programming including special collections, community and business sponsorships, and on-demand products that meet the fast paced technological advancements sought by library users of all ages. The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System currently provides self-service checkouts, we offer job finding and small business resources, and we partner with literacy and literary organizations such as Literacy Volunteers, Project Flight, WNED’s Think Bright initiative, Buffalo’s Adult Education and Just Buffalo Literary Center.

“Service and sustainability are our top priorities,” concluded Ms. Quinn-Carey. I know I speak for our dedicated board, staff and member libraries when I say we are committed to continuously strategize, review and refresh the way we serve all Buffalo and Erie County residents.”

Statistics:

2,934,257	# of items checked out in 2009
822,333	# of computer uses
3,815,419	# of Library visits Systemwide
817,701	# of visits /month
29,597	# of titles downloaded to date 2010

For more information on the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, visit www.buffalolib.org .

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