

## Lou Jean Fleron

49 Sagamore Terrace  
Buffalo, New York 14214

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### Cornell University ILR School

Buffalo Location: 617 Main Street, Suite 300  
Buffalo, New York 14203  
716.852.4192  
[lif8@cornell.edu](mailto:lif8@cornell.edu)

#### 2009 – Present *Emeritus Extension Faculty; Director, High Road Fellowships*

Responsible for Cornell ILR High Road Fellowships, providing Cornell students urban immersion experiences in economic development, with applied research and engaged learning projects through community organizations affiliated with the Partnership for the Public Good. Leads ILR activities of Cornell in Buffalo, including the public knowledge hub, Buffalo Commons, and collaborative policy and social innovation initiatives. Member of ILR Social Sector Working Group, a curriculum development team funded by Engaged Cornell to expand academic and applied study of the social economy.

#### 2005 – 2009 *Director, Workforce, Industry and Economic Development (WIED)*

Responsible for the direction and management of applied economics ILR Outreach unit comprised of ten ILR faculty – four in Buffalo, four in New York City and two in Ithaca. WIED produced contract and grant-funded action research, strategic industry and economic analysis, and customized education for regional, state, national and international clients. WIED's industry and regional research supported innovative economic policies and private sector practices which promote good jobs, equitable opportunity, effective labor market systems, inclusive workforce development, and collaborative development strategies.

Conducted research and taught in areas of public economic policy, regional development, international economics and workplace education and training.

#### 2003 – 2005 *Director, Economic Development Initiatives*

Coordinated ILR initiatives in economic development, providing research, education and technical assistance to joint labor-management led regional development activities, sectoral analysis aimed at quality job growth, community-based high road economic development innovations, and joint resident-extension projects to build capacity for practical and scholarly contributions to workforce and economic development policies and practices.

#### 1986 – 2005 *Founder and Director, Institute for Industry Studies*

Responsible for the academic and administrative direction of the Institute for Industry Studies, the Cornell ILR department devoted to industry analysis and education, founded in 1986, incorporated into WIED in 2005.

Designed curriculum and taught in credit and non-credit industry education programs for clients nationwide and internationally.

#### 1993 – 2003 *Director, Western Region*

As Regional Director, responsible for academic and administrative direction of ILR Extension Division in the Western Region, with faculty and staff of twenty professionals. Served on ILR Extension Directors Group. Served as Regional Administrator 1989-1992.

### **Cornell University ILR School (*continued*)**

#### **1977 – 1986    *Director, Labor Programs, Western Region***

Responsible for all credit and non-credit labor education for the Western Region, designed courses on issues of interest to unions, hired and directed adjunct faculty, and directed the Buffalo Labor Studies Program.

Taught credit and non-credit courses on American politics, contemporary labor issues, and union governance.

### **State University of New York at Buffalo**

#### **1970 – 1978    *Instructor, Department of Political Science Millard Fillmore College and Urban Extension***

Taught courses in political philosophy, American politics, and comparative government.

### **University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky**

#### **1965 – 1970    *Instructor, Department of Political Science***

Taught courses in political philosophy and American politics.

#### **1965 – 1967    *Research and Teaching Assistant, Department of Behavioral Science University of Kentucky Medical School***

Coordinated curriculum revision, served as executive assistant to the Department Chair and as research and editorial assistant.

### **Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky**

#### **1968 – 1970    *Instructor, Department of History and Political Science***

Taught courses in political and social philosophy.

### **Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana**

#### **1964 – 1965    *Research Assistant, Institute for Sex Research***

Edited and verified statistical data analysis of Institute publications, analyzed and coded case history materials, served as editorial assistant to staff sociologist.

### **Northwest Missouri State College, Maryville, Missouri**

#### **1963 – 1964    *Instructor, Department of Political Science***

Taught courses in American politics, comparative government, political philosophy, and introduction to social sciences.

## **EDUCATION**

#### **1963    M.A., Government, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana**

Fields: Political Philosophy, American Politics, Philosophy of Science

Thesis: The Philosophical and Methodological Individualism of Friedrich von Hayek

#### **1962    B.A., Political Science and Economics, Fort Hays Kansas State, Hays, Kansas**

#### **1958    Diploma, Kinsley High School, Kinsley, Kansas**

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Primary Civic Activities:

#### **Co-Founder/Director, Board Chair, Partnership for the Public Good (2007 – Present)**

The Partnership for the Public Good a community-based think and do tank, working to build a more just, sustainable and culturally vibrant Greater Buffalo through action-oriented research, policy development and citizen engagement. With 270 affiliated partners, PPG develops an annual Community Agenda of ten policy planks, hosts monthly forums, and produces publications and other resources to give the nonprofit community and citizens a stronger voice in public policy.

#### **Project Director, Open Buffalo Planning Grant (2012 – 2013)**

Open Buffalo is one of three sites selected nationally by the Open Society Foundations for long-term investment in civic capacity to address equality, justice and democratic practice at the local level.

#### **Chair, City of Buffalo Living Wage Commission (2003-2010)**

The Buffalo Living Wage Commission is a nine-member citizen's commission charged with the legal responsibility for enforcing the City's living wage ordinance. The Commission's compliance monitoring, legal actions, and negotiated agreements resulted in over 1500 workers receiving living wage increases.

### Recent Publications:

"Two Paths to the High Road: The Dynamics of Coalition Building in Seattle and Buffalo," (with Ian Greer and Barbara Byrd), in Lowell Turner and Daniel Cornfield (eds.). *Labor in the New Urban Battlegrounds: Local Solidarity in a Global Economy*. Cornell University ILR Press, 2007.

*Buffalo Child Care Means Business*, (with Lauren Breen, Danielle Dimitrov and Regina Grogan), Cornell University ILR, 2006.

"Labor and Regional Development in the U.S.A.: Building a High Road Infrastructure in Buffalo, New York," (with Ian Greer), in *International Journal of Action Research*, 1(2), 219-242, 2005.

"Labor and Urban Crisis in Buffalo, New York: Building a High Road Infrastructure," (with Ian Greer), presented at UALE Annual Conference, Philadelphia, March 2005; web-published by UALE-AFL-CIO Regional Power Building Research Project, Wayne State University [www.laborstudies.wayne.edu/power.html](http://www.laborstudies.wayne.edu/power.html).

"Building a Two-Lane High Road: Unions and Economic Development in Western New York," (with Ron Applegate), in *Perspectives on Work, The Magazine of the LERA*, 8(1), 10-12, Summer 2004.

"Labor Matters: A Tribute to Auto Workers," composition for the mural *Labor Matters* by Bruce Adams for *Art on Wheels* cultural tourism initiative, Buffalo, New York, 2003.

*Champions @ Work: Employment, Workplace Practices and Labor-Management Relations in Western New York*, (with Howard Stanger and Eileen Patton), Cornell University ILR, 2000.

*Reflections on Progress at Work: Fifty Years of ILR Outreach*, Cornell University ILR, 1996.

### Selected Recent Activities:

Workers Rights Board, Coalition for Economic Justice • Self-Sufficiency Coalition of Western New York • Quality Child Care Collaborative • Accountable Development Advisory Committee, NYS Jobs with Justice • Art on Wheels • Cooperative Regional Economic Development with Buffalo Niagara Enterprise and AFL-CIO Economic Development Group • Capital Campaign, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center • State of the Region Project, University at Buffalo, Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth • WEM: The Employers Association of the Metal Trades in Europe, North American Study Tour • Labor and Employment Relations Association • Western New York Employee Involvement Council • County Municipal Consolidation Committee, Erie County Legislature • United Association for Labor Education • Phoenix Construction Project • New York Center for Employee Ownership and Participation • Telecommunications Exchange, NYS Division of Policy and Research