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05/08/09 07:02 AM

# Public, private sectors need to work together

Kevin Gaughan’s article was excellent with eye-catching language, the best of which is: “what is the fate of a community that built the Erie Canal, harnessed the power of the Niagara River and created the steel that fortified a nation?”

Gov. Dewitt Clinton built the Erie Canal, but yesterday’s private industry “harnessed and created.”

Some argue government should be run like business. Really? Like M&T, HSBC, General Motors or Bethlehem Steel? C’mon!

The largest campus of the largest state university in the land is in Amherst. What has Western New York, public and private, done to “harness” the talent of the faculty and students? What has Western New York done to encourage and urge that talent to “create”?

Should government alone look to the very source it created, or should private industry beg and borrow from the area’s greatest treasure?

Gaughan concludes, “Western New York has become a two-company town: politicians and poverty. Until we reduce the former we’ll never be able to address the latter.” He’s wrong. We have to reduce poverty to address politicians and industry. In brief, lobby both.


Thomas Santa Lucia

*Williamsville*

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