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Dr. Kathryn A. (Kate) Foster is Director of the University at Buffalo Regional Institute, The State University of New York. Prior to assuming her current position in 2005, Foster was chair of the University at Buffalo Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Foster earned her Ph.D. in public and international affairs from Princeton University.

Foster's areas of expertise include regions, governance and regional decision-making. She is the author of *The Political Economy of Special-Purpose Government* (1997), *Regionalism on Purpose* (2001), and numerous articles and reports on regions and governance. Foster is currently working on studies of regional resilience, and also a book on governance systems—including the European Union, Iroquois Confederacy, National Football League, University of California, General Motors, Roman Catholic Church and the Internet—to glean insights for metropolitan regions.

At the Regional Institute Foster directs a staff of ten professionals engaged in research and public policy projects, with special focus on the binational Buffalo Niagara region. A frequent public speaker, she directed the Regional Institute's award-winning performance measurement project, *State of the Region: Performance Indicators for the Buffalo-Niagara Region in the 21st Century*, as well as efforts on regional governance, regional economics and regional demographic change. In April 2007, she was a Governor appointee to the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness. In August 2007, *Business First* selected Foster as its 2007 Woman of Influence in the area of public policy. She currently serves as a member of the statewide Task Force on Maximizing School District Resources, an effort organized by the New York State School Boards Association.