

**Brenda McDuffie**

*ECIDA/RDC Chair, Buffalo Urban League, Inc.(retired)*

Brenda W. McDuffie was appointed to the UB Council on December 9, 2019, by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. In 1998, Mrs. McDuffie was named the first woman president and CEO of the Buffalo Urban League, Inc. Under her leadership, it grew to serve more than 20,000 individuals annually, addressing their economic and social needs. She and her team achieved recognition throughout the Western New York region for their advocacy and exemplary work strengthening families, improving education outcomes and increasing economic opportunities for individuals and businesses.

Mrs. McDuffie has dedicated her life to serving others. Her recognition of the value and gifts of each individual has given her a unique ability to effectively work with people from all walks of life—grassroots to grass tops. She has served local, state and national organizations including: Greater Buffalo Savings Bank Board (founding member), Independent Health Association Board, Western New York Regional Economic Development Council (Executive Committee), Western New York Power Proceeds Board, Buffalo State College(trustee), Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Development Board (vice chair), New York State Re-Entry Council, New York State Farm Laborers Wage Board and the National Urban League.

Mrs. McDuffie currently serves as the first woman chair of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency. Over the past decade, she has been annually recognized as one of the most influential leaders in Western New York. In addition, she has received numerous awards and recognitions for her advocacy, leadership and service.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Mrs. McDuffie received her undergraduate degree in human services from Buffalo State College and her graduate certification in human resources from UB's School of Management. She and her husband, Gerald, reside in Buffalo, where they raised their three children. Her faith continues to allow her to live a richly blessed life.