

## Kathryn A. Foster

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 associate professor and chair of the University at Buffalo Department of Urban and Regional Planning. She also served as Director of Research at the Regional Institute from its founding in 1997 to 2003. Foster earned her Ph.D. in public and international affairs from Princeton University.

Foster's areas of expertise include regions, governance, regional decision-making, and intergovernmental and intersectoral (public, private, nonprofit, civic, academic) relations. She is the author of *The Political Economy of Special-Purpose Government* (Georgetown University Press, 1997), *Regionalism on Purpose* (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2001), and articles on regions and governance in such journals as *Political Geography*, *Urban Affairs Review*, and the *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Foster is currently working on a book on governance systems—including the European Union, Iroquois Confederacy, National Football League, University of California system, General Motors and the Internet—to glean lessons and insights for U.S. metropolitan regions.

Since 1999, Foster has directed the Regional Institute's major performance measurement project, *State of the Region: Performance Indicators for the Buffalo-Niagara Region in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, which won awards from the regional and state divisions of the American Planning Association. She was also project director for *Governance in Erie County: A Foundation for Understanding and Action*, and has conducted numerous studies of regional issues, including a history of regional planning on the Niagara Frontier and a survey of municipal cooperative agreements in Western New York.