

**Zachary “Zaque” Evans**

*Chief Economic Development Officer, Erie County*

Zaque Evans is the Chief Economic Development Officer for Erie County, where he has served since February 2022. A lifelong Western New Yorker and current City of Buffalo resident, Zaque has a comprehensive background in a variety of fields, including construction and public works, logistics, academic research, labor organizing, event operations and management, marketing and promotions, and broadcasting. This diversity of experiences has allowed Zaque to interface with the multi-faceted economic development projects and strategic initiatives throughout Erie County. In addition to serving on the ILDC board, Zaque serves as the Erie County Executive’s liaison to the ECIDA and its affiliated entities, other IDAs in Erie County, the Department of Environment and Planning, the Workforce Buffalo system, local chambers of commerce and the business sector, and the labor community. He also spearheads Erie County’s ARPA-funded affordable housing initiative, special infrastructure projects, business attraction and rapid-response efforts, and is the point person for governmental affairs outreach and intake.

Outside of his Erie County responsibilities, Zaque is finishing his PhD in Sociology at the University at Buffalo (UB), with a focus on urban sociology and political economy. At UB, he is also an adjunct instructor and has received the University’s Excellence in Teaching award and the Department of Sociology and Criminology’s Adeline G. Levine Excellence in Teaching award, and was recognized as the University at Buffalo Student Employee of the Year. His academic career has included a stop as a graduate researcher at Resources for the Future, an environmental economics think tank in Washington, DC; a master’s degree in Sociology; graduate certificates in data analytics and applied social research; bachelor’s degrees in Sociology and Communication. Zaque also received the New York State Broadcaster’s Association Scholarship Award during his nearly 15-year career in local and national radio, local TV, and with the Buffalo Bills.