



## Fair Shows Brain Drain Continuing

Reported by: *Evan Axelbank*  
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She's only been out of school for three years, but Shanell Jeffries has had to grow up fast.

"I was blessed to find a job, but they downsized," said Jeffries.

And now she's at a job fair, trying to find something in accounting. The Rochester native went to school in Virginia, but moved back.

"I do plan to go back for my masters in forensic accounting. Brockport has a terrific program," said Jeffries.

But what happens after her second round of school is over?

"Speaking with others who have moved away, who have been in the same position as I have, I've heard a lot of great things about places other than Rochester," said Jeffries.

The group who put this jobs fair on says stopping the flow of young people from leaving the area is a huge part of turning the entire economy around. For all the talk over the years, stopping the so-called brain drain still hasn't happened.

"It is very frustrating, it's frustrating for the Rochester Business Alliance, it's frustrating for everyone in this community," said Ellen Rosen of the Rochester Business Alliance.

Rosen worries any reversal is a year away.

"Employers are a little hesitant to add permanent people, they're still sticking with the temporaries," said Rosen.

Upstate could look to young people like Charles Maxwell, who wants to start a business, here, after graduation.

"I think most people would choose to stay here," said Maxwell.

But Rosen fears that most young people are in Jeffries' camp: If she took bets, would she wind up somewhere else?

"Ultimately, yes," said Jeffries. "What I am trying to do, I would actually make a lot more, somewhere else."

Former Governor Eliot Spitzer's wife has said that 110,000 college graduates left New York for other states in the last half of the 1990s.

But we won't really know how the most recent decade went until the 2010 census is complete.