



Open Letter to Legislators

It is with great respect and enthusiasm that we applaud SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher on the launch of “The Power of SUNY,” a strategic plan that will guide SUNY for the next five to ten years, with a **focus on the revitalization of New York’s economy** and enhanced quality of life in our communities.

The plan that Chancellor Zimpher has unveiled focuses squarely on how New York can best utilize SUNY to **boost economic development**. We believe this plan lays out an important vision of how public higher education can partner with businesses, local governments and community organizations to drive New York’s immediate and long-term economic recovery.

“The Power of SUNY” shows great promise for economic vitality in New York State, but in order to realize its full potential, we need to secure passage of the **Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act**.

The Empowerment Act harnesses high-impact, zero-cost solutions that will **create jobs, build the foundation for tomorrow’s economy and strengthen public higher education**. With the implementation of the Empowerment and Innovation Act, The State University of New York estimates that over the next ten years, its campuses will be able to help create over 10,000 new jobs and invest over \$8.5 billion in capital construction, which will support over 43,700 direct and 21,800 indirect construction jobs.

As representatives of business, local government, and industry and as citizens of New York State, we strongly urge you to support the State University and **help unleash “The Power of SUNY”** by passing the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act.

Stephen J. Acquario - NYS Association of Counties

Kenneth Adams - The Business Council of New York State, Inc.

Peter A. Baynes - NYS Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials

Matthew T. Crosson, Esq. - Long Island Association, Inc.

Mark Eagan - Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce

Mike Elmendorf - National Federation of Independent Businesses

Wally Hart - Chamber Alliance of New York State

Darlene Kerr - Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce

Brian T. McMahon - New York State Economic Development Council

Sandra A. Parker - Rochester Business Alliance

Andrew J. Rudnick - Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Lou Santoni - Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce

Robert M. Simpson - Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and Central New York, Inc.

F. Michael Tucker - Center for Economic Growth

Randy Wolken - President, Manufacturer’s Association of Central New York