

## **Higher Education Empowerment, Innovation Act Could Help SUNY, JCC**

“The governor’s proposed Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act has the potential to enable Jamestown Community College to play a greater role in planning its own future,” said JCC President Gregory T. DeCinque, responding to Governor Patterson’s proposed 2010-11 New York state budget released today.

“Two key features of the proposed act are a measure which allows State University of New York (SUNY) institutions to differentiate tuition by both campus and academic program and a measure which would give community colleges access to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to finance/construct campus residence halls,” Dr. DeCinque commented. “A rational tuition policy is essential so that proper planning can take place both on college campuses and among families who are anticipating tuition expenses. “In the past, tuition adjustments have come about quickly in response to financial crises within the state.”

JCC, which now offers student housing in two residence halls on the Jamestown Campus, now has another option to explore when considering future building option. “DASNY funding could change the equation upon which we base our decisions regarding the expansion of on-campus housing,” Dr. DeCinque said.

“I appreciate the governor’s intention to help SUNY institutions cut through red tape and be both entrepreneurial and responsive to community and campus needs in ways not previously possible,” Dr. DeCinque said. “A stronger relationship between SUNY, under the leadership of new chancellor Nancy Zimpher, and the governor’s office has resulted in new ways of thinking that could yield benefits for SUNY, the state, and most importantly, students and their families.

“This empowerment comes at a critical time as the governor is also recommending cuts to SUNY,” said Dr. DeCinque. “If funding is to be reduced, SUNY’s individual campuses, and community colleges in particular, must be equipped with the tools we need to plot action steps for a strong future.”

The potential impact of the governor’s proposed higher education cuts on both SUNY and JCC is still being reviewed at both levels.