

THE STATE UNIVERSITY of NEW YORK

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Chancellor

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Honorable David Paterson
Governor, State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Honorable John Sampson
Democrat Conference Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Honorable Dean Skelos
Minority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Brian Kolb
Minority Leader
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

Dear State Leaders,

As New York's April 1st budget deadline quickly approaches, I am writing on behalf of the 64 campuses of the State University of New York to provide you with my comments regarding both the Senate and Assembly budget priorities as compared to those contained in the Governor's Executive Budget request.

State University has absorbed \$424 million in cuts over the past two years with the 2010-11 budget proposing an additional reduction of \$210 million. In light of these drastic reductions, I am extremely concerned as to the ability of SUNY to continue to provide high-quality, affordable and accessible higher education to the citizens of our state.

As you are keenly aware, the State University has been actively advocating the enactment of the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA). Our Board of Trustees, campus presidents and even our Student Assembly all see the benefits of PHEEIA and feel the opportunity it provides is necessary during this time of financial constraints.

The future of SUNY is at a crossroads requiring bold and inspired leadership. I came to SUNY to provide that leadership, but I need you as a partner.

I have carefully considered the proposals outlined in the Executive Budget, as well as both the Senate and Assembly resolutions. While restoration of the \$40.3 million community college base aid reduction has been proposed, this is not a restorative measure for all of SUNY. SUNY's state-operated campuses are still facing a \$170 million reduction in state support and the SUNY hospitals must absorb \$99 million in collectively bargained salary increases.

With that in mind, as your budget deliberations continue, the list below is what SUNY requires, at a minimum, to alleviate draconian cuts in program closings, retrenchments of faculty and layoffs of staff at our campuses.

SUNY needs at a minimum:

- Restoration of base-aid for Community Colleges as proposed in the Senate and Assembly resolutions;
- Aid to Localities appropriation for all SUNY funding including state taxpayer support, tuition, fees and other revenues;
- Rational tuition authority at 1.5x HEPI (5-year rolling average) for all campuses as proposed in the Senate resolution;
- Differential Tuition for the four University Centers at Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo and Stony Brook;
- Public Private Partnerships and land lease authority for the four University Centers at Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo and Stony Brook;
- Elimination of Pre-Audit of goods for all campuses as proposed in the Senate resolution;
- Elimination of Pre-Audit for SUNY hospitals and the SUNY Construction Fund as proposed in the Executive Budget and Senate resolution;
- SUNY hospital joint venture authority as proposed in the Executive Budget and Senate resolution;
- SUNY Construction Fund delivery method authority as proposed in the Executive Budget and Senate resolution;
- SUNY Construction Fund Aid to Localities appropriation and \$250,000 bond performance thresholds as proposed in the Executive Budget and Senate resolution; and
- The additional PHEEIA reforms as proposed in the Executive Budget and Senate resolution.

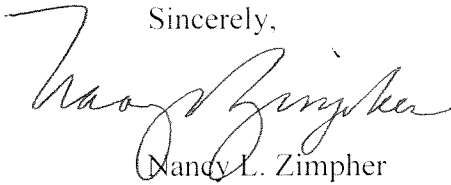
SUNY rejects the following proposals:

- Abolition of the SUNY Construction Fund and the transfer of its sole mission to expedite SUNY's capital program to DASNY as proposed in the Assembly resolution;

- Additional funding reductions to SUNY University Wide Programs, System Administration and community colleges as proposed in Senate resolution;
- The absorption of the Union workforce savings if the concession is rejected by the unions;
- The elimination of funding for University at Albany's Center for Health Workforce Studies, a statewide health professions data collection program as proposed in Senate resolution;
- The elimination of funding for University at Albany's Public Health Leader for Tomorrow program which funds student in Master's in Public Health as proposed in Senate resolution; and
- The elimination of DOH funding for Poison Control Centers, including that of Upstate Medical University.

I am challenged, as you are, with the current fiscal realities we face as New Yorkers. For this reason we *must* seek creative ways to protect the crucial public investments made to date in SUNY. I stand ready to work with you, your colleagues and staff in order to bring a fair and equitable resolution to the 2010-11 state budget as it pertains to the State University of New York.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Zimpher
Chancellor
The State University of New York

cc: Presidents, SUNY Campuses
SUNY Board of Trustees
NYS Legislators