

SUGGESTED TOPICS ON THE HISTORY OF SUNY

The Program Committee offers the following possible topics and sessions. This list is only suggestive and other topics are invited:

1. *The SUNY System: Is the Whole Greater than its Parts?*

General topics

- The Board of Trustees and SUNY
- Chancellors, Central Administration and the SUNY campuses
- SUNY's students: leadership, cultures, and experiences
- The shifting dimensions and focus of SUNY
- SUNY's varied campuses:
 - Research Universities: Breaking into the Old Order
 - Comprehensive Colleges: Transformed from Teachers Colleges
 - Community Colleges: Making a new institution
 - Contract Colleges: A Public-Private Partnership
 - Articulation and competition among the Sectors
- Unions and professional organizations

Some Specific Topics

- SUNY's difficult birth: the first years
- Modest Expectations: The Dewey & Harriman Years
- The Flagship Model Sinks: The Blegen Report and its critics, Division I Football, and the Status Quo
- The Impact of Sputnik: Crisis of the Teacher College
- 'One Shining Moment': The Gould Revolution
- Sam Gould: Rockefeller's Chancellor
- Train Wreck in the 1970s: Recession, Retrenchment & Regents
- In the Shadow of Clark Kerr: Chancellors' Changing Roles
- Can the Center Hold? Centralization & De-Centralization since 1980
- 'State supported,' 'State assisted,' or 'State located': Changing patterns of state funding since 1990

2. *SUNY and Higher Education in New York State*

- The Promise of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act and New York State
- Before SUNY: Higher Education in New York State—Regents, Normal Schools, and private institutions
- The fierce post-WWII battle over the creation of SUNY

- SUNY's origins in an ethno-religious and racial cauldron
- Relationship of New York State Governors to SUNY
Esp. Nelson Rockefeller: The Godfather of SUNY
- Relationship of New York State legislators to SUNY
- CUNY: New York's other public system
- SUNY students' characteristics (e.g., age, race, religion, class, gender, region)
- NYS's economic trends and conditions and their impact on SUNY
- Public and media perceptions of SUNY
- Falling out of Love: Disillusionment with SUNY in the 1970s
- SUNY at moments of "crisis" (e.g., Attica, New York City's fiscal problems, Love Canal, 2001 Terrorist attacks, etc.)

3. *SUNY in National and International Context*

- Other American state systems (e.g., California, Michigan, etc.)
- Other international systems (e.g., England, Germany, Japan, India, etc.)
- SUNY participation in international exchanges of scholars, students, research projects
- SUNY's Community Colleges: comparing NYS's approach
- SUNY's Comprehensive Colleges: shaping a uniquely American model
- SUNY's research universities in a rankings-obsessed world

4. *Rescuing and Preserving SUNY's legacy*

- SUNY's Archives: an assessment and the way forward
- Campus archives: relationship of SUNY Central to the periphery
- Oral History: Using existing collections and planning for future projects
- Comparing / contrasting other states' strategies
- Providing scholars and students access to SUNY's archives.

5. *Other Topics*

The organizing committee welcomes suggestions of topics not covered above.