



THE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT AND INNOVATION ACT

Legislature Talking Points

- The Governor has announced The Public Higher Education and Innovation Act, which has been included in the Executive budget.
- The Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act harnesses high-impact, zero-cost solutions that will create jobs, build the foundation for tomorrow's economy and strengthen public higher education – while saving millions of taxpayer dollars.
- The Act builds on the unprecedented cooperation and energetic partnership of SUNY and CUNY in working with Governor Paterson and the Division of the Budget so as to design a landmark higher education plan to reach each and every community throughout New York State with broad access, high quality and affordability.
- This is a major step in unleashing the public university sector to achieve the promise of economic growth through top quality public higher education from Community College to Research Center first envisioned for New York decades ago.
- 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.
- With greater financial independence and streamlined operations, SUNY and CUNY will be poised to develop strong public-private partnerships, new sources of revenue and enhanced research funds. Most important, the Act will provide the financial stability (through multi-year budget plans) and increased opportunities that our students, employees and taxpayers need.
- In a time when state resources are scarce, these initiatives will allow the state to enable the full potential and power of the State University without cost to the state. You have the ability to give us the tools that will allow us to succeed for the benefit of all New Yorkers.
- As your constituent, I am asking for your support and that you express your full support to the leadership in your conference.