



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

June 2, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor

SUBJECT: Appointment of Dr. Satish Tripathi as President Emeritus and University Professor

Action Requested

The proposed resolution appoints Dr. Satish Tripathi as President Emeritus and University Professor. Pursuant to University policy and this resolution, he will be entitled to use the title of President emeritus, and upon his retirement in good standing from the University faculty, also the title of University Professor emeritus.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the appointment of Dr. Satish Tripathi as President Emeritus and University Professor, State University of New York, effective upon the conclusion of his term as President of the State University of New York at Buffalo be, and hereby is approved; and, be it further

Resolved that effective upon such date, Dr. Tripathi shall be entitled to use the title “President *emeritus*” and upon his retirement in good standing from the University faculty he shall also be entitled to use the title of University Professor *emeritus*.

Background

In recognition of his achievements as a transformative higher education leader and his service as President, Provost, administrator, and educator at the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB), Dr. Satish K. Tripathi is recognized for his historic tenure as the university's 15th president. Dr. Tripathi led the university through a remarkable era of progress aimed at positioning UB among the top 25 public research universities in the United States. Beginning with his appointment on April 18, 2011, and over his 15 years of leadership, President Tripathi dramatically elevated the university's academic profile, student success metrics, research portfolio, physical infrastructure, and global footprint, while deeply rooting UB's mission in service to the Buffalo community and Western New York.

Under President Tripathi's leadership, the percentage of incoming students with a GPA of 3.75 or higher nearly tripled, culminating in a record number of first-year applications and the largest first-year class in UB history. This growth was supported by a reimagined student experience featuring expanded hands-on learning, enhanced coaching, a new entrepreneurship center, and seven new academic departments. Notably, this included the pioneering Department of AI and Society, which introduced seven first-of-their-kind undergraduate degree programs combining AI with traditional disciplines. To support this expanding academic ecosystem, President Tripathi oversaw a 15% increase in UB faculty, including 140 new positions since 2023, with 95 faculty members joining the prestigious ranks of SUNY Distinguished Professor.

As President, Dr. Tripathi led a strategic vision that resulted in major System-wide milestones. His efforts oversaw the completion of 25 major renovations and new buildings to reshape the living-learning environment. These major projects included state-of-the-art engineering school buildings, dramatic library and dining transformations, an elite athletic fieldhouse, and the \$375-million Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences building. Additional construction planned or underway now totals \$1 billion. President Tripathi also launched the comprehensive Boldly Buffalo campaign, securing the three largest single gifts in UB's history and expanding the campaign to a final milestone of \$1.1 billion. In recognition of UB's elevated profile, Governor Kathy Hochul designated UB as the host of Empire AI, a public-private consortium putting New York State at the forefront of the AI revolution.

Driven by this strategic focus, UB's sponsored research expenditures grew by 65%, from \$157.1 million to \$259 million. This surge is anchored by competitive federal awards, including a \$65 million Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health, a \$20 million National Science Foundation grant to establish the national AI Institute for Exceptional Education, and \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Education for the Center for Early Literacy and Responsible AI.

An internationally regarded computer scientist, Dr. Tripathi served for seven years as UB's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs before assuming the presidency. As provost, he was a principal architect of the UB 2020 long-range academic plan and spearheaded the globalization of UB's campuses, including a landmark 2005 memorandum of understanding to establish the Indo-U.S. Inter-University Collaborative Initiative. Throughout his presidency, he nearly doubled the number of institutions engaged in research partnerships and student exchanges, extending UB's formal reach to 34 countries. Under his tenure, UB consistently ranked in the top 30 of U.S. universities hosting international students, currently welcoming scholars from more than 100 countries.

This global growth was balanced with an invigorated commitment to the Buffalo community, where UB is a leader in educating the region's next-generation workforce. President Tripathi prioritized community-based learning initiatives that deploy medical, dental, and accounting students to care for vulnerable and underserved local populations. Reflecting his enduring belief that education is a calling, President Tripathi plans to return to the classroom to teach following the conclusion of his distinguished presidential tenure.

Prior to joining UB in 2004, President Tripathi served as dean of the Bourns College of Engineering at the University of California-Riverside, nearly quadrupling enrollment and tripling the faculty. From 1978 through 1997, he was a professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Maryland. Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2024, he is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the International Academy of Artificial Intelligence Sciences, and holds honorary doctorates from institutions in India and Canada. President Tripathi earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in statistics from Banaras Hindu University, an additional master's from the University of Alberta, and his master's and Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Toronto. President Tripathi is the first international-born president in UB's history.