MEMORANDUM

May 6, 2015

To: Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor

Subject: Experiential / Applied Learning Plan

Action Requested

The proposed resolution directs the Chancellor to collaboratively develop a plan to make experiential or applied learning activities available to students enrolled in an academic program of the State University of New York.

Resolution

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

Whereas the Chancellor, in her 2013 State of the University Address, underscored the value of every student having an opportunity for at least one experiential / applied learning activity, in its many possible forms, during his/her academic career at SUNY; and

Whereas the University Faculty Senate, in collaboration with the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, the SUNY Student Assembly, and System Administration has supported faculty development of applied learning opportunities of different types for students, including through development of the publication Internships: A Guide for Planning, Implementation, and Assessment, as well as Service-Learning: A Toolkit; and

Whereas the SUNY Provost’s Applied Learning Advisory Committee was empanelled in October 2014 with representation from every campus, establishing an Applied Learning Team on every campus, and is currently reviewing
the SUNY Applied Learning Framework through regional engagements; and

Whereas the Governor and Legislature have expressed support for experiential and applied learning through legislation included in the 2015/16 Enacted Budget; now, therefore; be it

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to develop a plan to make approved experiential or applied learning activities available to students enrolled in an academic program of the State University beginning in the 2016/17 academic year; and, be it further

Resolved that such plan shall be developed in consultation with the University Faculty Senate, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, the SUNY Student Assembly, and other stakeholders; and shall be presented to the Board of Trustees for review prior to the June first, two thousand sixteen statutory deadline; and, be it further

Resolved that such plan shall define approved experiential or applied learning activities, methods of faculty oversight and assessment, responsibilities of business, corporate, non-profit or other entities hosting students; and, be it further

Resolved that such plan shall include a requirement for collecting and reporting data associated with such experiential or applied learning activities; and, be it further

Resolved that such plan shall have each campus and college examine the feasibility of including such experiential or applied learning activities as a degree requirement, including examining individual ability to administer and provide such opportunities to students; the local community's capacity to support such experiential or applied learning activities; the impact such requirement would have on the local workforce; potential for such a requirement to enhance learning outcomes for students; and whether adding such a requirement would cause potential delays in graduation for students.
Background

This resolution responds to the 2015/16 Enacted New York State Budget which included a provision directing the Boards of Trustees of the State University and the City University of New York to each pass a resolution to develop a plan in collaboration with faculty and student governance and in consultation with campuses to offer experiential / applied learning activities to enrolled students.

As part of ongoing efforts to advance the Chancellor’s strategic priority on experiential and applied learning activities for SUNY students, SUNY established a Provost’s Advisory Council on Applied Learning in November 2014. Through the Council, applied learning teams have been established on all campuses.

The first step in the planning process called for in this resolution will be development of a proposed timeline to meet the 2016 deadline for plan completion. That timeline will be shared with the Board of Trustees and the Provost will report periodically on the progress of plan development.