THE INAUGURATION OF

Kristina M. Johnson, PhD

13th Chancellor of
The State University of New York
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018
10:00 A.M.

Morris W. & Fannie B. Haft Theater
Fashion Institute of Technology
Welcome

Dear Friends of SUNY,

Welcome to the inauguration of Kristina M. Johnson, PhD, the 13th Chancellor of The State University of New York (SUNY). Dr. Johnson comes to SUNY with strong credentials in three distinct fields—academia, industry and government—and a wealth of experience in each sector.

The SUNY system is fortunate to have a leader like Dr. Johnson. Her keen intellect, entrepreneurial spirit, and drive for excellence have resulted in transformative accomplishments that have changed the world for the better. In less than a year, she has established a vision for SUNY that has already set us on a new course.

Today, we can look forward to a university system with greater opportunities for our students, more innovative research, and an increased emphasis on sustainability. Under Dr. Johnson’s leadership, SUNY continues to advance in its role as a world-class institution and an important partner across diverse sectors, whose impact will be felt in New York State, across the nation, and around the globe.

We are grateful Dr. Johnson has chosen to come to SUNY to share her unique blend of skills and talents. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, please join me in celebrating this historic milestone and welcoming Dr. Johnson. Thank you for your participation in this exciting event and for your support of SUNY.

Sincerely,

H. Carl McCall
Chairman
SUNY Board of Trustees
University Officials

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Ernest L. Boyer, 1970 – 1977
Thomas H. Hamilton, 1939 – 1963*
William S. Carlson, 1952 – 1958*
Alvin C. Eurich, 1949 – 1952*

*Denotes title is listed as president, not chancellor
It was the late 1940s, and a growing sense of opportunity was building in America. World War II veterans were using the GI bill to attend college in record numbers. President Harry S. Truman had ordered the desegregation of the armed forces. And in the wake of several Supreme Court decisions that removed racial barriers, the President’s Commission on Higher Education declared that post-secondary education should be more accessible to all Americans. Higher education was fast becoming the path to financial security, upward mobility, and a more prosperous future.

At this critical juncture, New York was the only state without a public university system. Many of the state’s private institutions could not absorb the burgeoning numbers and continued to deny admission to certain racial and ethnic groups. And so on April 4, 1948, Governor Thomas E. Dewey signed legislation that created The State University of New York (SUNY).

The new system had 32 campuses with 32,000 students. It was comprised of 11 teachers colleges; six agriculture and technology colleges; five institutes of applied arts and sciences; and seven colleges contracted out to three private universities – Alfred, Cornell and Syracuse.

The early years were marked by regulatory obstacles, including limits on the teaching of liberal arts and the training of secondary teachers in academic subjects. The teaching of engineering was restricted to the Maritime College, and the raising of private funds was strictly prohibited. Research and doctoral programs did not exist. SUNY was expected to act as an adjunct to the state’s private colleges and universities, not a competitor. Even so in its first decade,
SUNY managed to acquire medical schools in Brooklyn and Syracuse and a small liberal arts college in Binghamton. It also opened a small campus on Long Island. But in its first decade, total enrollment increased by only about 8,000.

All that changed when Nelson A. Rockefeller became governor in 1959. By then the nation was well into the baby boom. His arrival in Albany came just two years after the Russians launched Sputnik, and the escalating space race would forever alter the course of higher education. Suddenly, in order to compete, the nation needed a more educated populace and a new focus on research to achieve the breakthroughs demanded by an emerging era of discovery and innovation.

Soon after he was elected, Rockefeller appointed a Commission on Higher Education to explore the anticipated increase in demand for post-secondary education. Their findings called for a significant expansion of SUNY and a system of excellence that could provide a public option for higher education in New York.

Rockefeller grew the SUNY system with the understanding that it would educate the majority of New York’s college-bound students and drive economic development. During his 14-year tenure, he acquired the formerly private University of Buffalo and made it the largest institution in the SUNY system. He established community colleges around the state and launched graduate programs at Albany, Buffalo, Binghamton, and Stony Brook. He advocated for the creation of the Empire State College, which gave working adults the opportunity to pursue higher education on a more flexible schedule.

Under Rockefeller’s leadership, SUNY became the largest comprehensive university system in the nation. And with support from the New York State Legislature and Governor Mario M. Cuomo in the mid-1980s, SUNY achieved even more managerial flexibility and national prominence as a graduate and research institution.

Today, SUNY has 64 campuses, made up of 14 doctoral granting institutions, including five statutory colleges and three hospitals; 13 comprehensive colleges; seven technology colleges; 30 community colleges; and manages a national laboratory. Campuses are spread throughout the state in communities large and small, urban and rural.

SUNY’s academic offerings are as diverse as the 1.4 million students it serves, with degrees ranging from business, engineering, and medicine to liberal arts, fashion design, and communications. SUNY also operates numerous research institutes. SUNY produces nearly $1 billion of externally sponsored research each year, in fields as varied as energy, medicine, and atmospheric sciences. With campuses throughout the state, SUNY drives the cultural life and economy of New York State.
Long before she became the Chancellor of The State University of New York (SUNY), Kristina M. Johnson was already an innovator and a leader. While in junior high, she founded the school’s environmental club. As a high school senior, she pulled her first all-nighter and won the State Science Fair and earned a first and second place in the physics division at the International Science Fair. And when she learned that Stanford University didn’t have a women’s lacrosse team, she started a club sport that eventually became a varsity team.

Dr. Johnson’s entrepreneurial spirit, passion for the environment, and scientific prowess became the foundation for a career that has taken her from academia to private industry to government. She is the co-founder and former CEO of Cube Hydro Partners, LLC, a clean energy infrastructure company that modernizes hydropower plants. Dr. Johnson grew Cube from one plant to 19 plants on ten rivers in five states, producing enough clean energy to power 150,000 homes.

Her diverse talents enabled Dr. Johnson to amass 118 US and international patents, and win the John Fritz Medal, the highest award of the engineering societies. Past winners include Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, and Orville Wright. Dr. Johnson’s inventions include technology that produces striking 3D effects in movies such as Avatar and optical systems that detect spiculated masses in mammograms.

Dr. Johnson grew up in Denver, Colorado, one of seven children in a family that prized athletics and intellectual pursuits. Her mother was the daughter of Irish immigrants. Her paternal grandfather and father were both engineers. At Stanford University, Dr. Johnson earned her BS, MS and PhD in electrical engineering.
Making Her Mark
After overcoming Hodgkin’s lymphoma in her early 20s, Dr. Johnson embarked on a NATO postdoctoral fellowship at Trinity College, Dublin. She went on to become a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she co-founded one of the early National Science Foundation Engineering Research Centers, The Center for Optoelectronic Computing Systems.

As dean of Duke University’s Pratt School of Engineering from 1999 to 2007, Dr. Johnson led a strategic planning process that established four new cross-disciplinary research programs, tripled research expenditures, and built the world-class Fitzpatrick Center for Interdisciplinary Engineering, Medicine, and Applied Sciences. Under her leadership, undergraduate enrollment in the Pratt school increased 20 percent, the number of graduate students doubled, and the endowment grew tenfold. She established the Pratt Fellows research opportunity program for undergraduates that engaged a third of the students in independent research.

As provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Johns Hopkins University from 2007 to 2009, Dr. Johnson led a university-wide strategic planning process called “Framework for the Future” which included the Mosaic Initiative for recruiting under-represented minorities across the University.

Her innovation and leadership came to the attention of President Barack H. Obama, who appointed her the under secretary of energy in the US Department of Energy. In that role, she oversaw a broad $10.5 billion energy and environment portfolio with projects that included renewable energy, nuclear power, energy efficiency, smart grid, and nuclear waste. She also oversaw the $36 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding that more than doubled the amount of renewable energy on the grid and started the licensing of small modular reactors.

Taking the Helm
By the time she arrived at SUNY in September 2017, Dr. Johnson had demonstrated remarkable versatility, leadership, and innovation in multiple sectors. She was inducted into the Women in Technology International (2003), Small Business Technology Council (2010), Colorado Women’s (2014) and National Inventors (2015) Halls of Fame. In 2004, she received the Society of Women Engineers Achievement Award, and in 2010, the Woman of Vision Award for Leadership by the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Inventors, and a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Optical Society and the SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics. She holds five honorary doctorates.

Today, as SUNY’s 13th Chancellor, Dr. Johnson has crafted a vision for the nation’s largest comprehensive university system that embraces opportunity, excellence, and impact. Her ambitious plans build upon SUNY’s achievements and focus on preparing New York for the future and the challenges it brings.
1816
SUNY Potsdam
President Kristin G. Esterberg

1826
SUNY Fredonia
President Virginia Horvath

1828
SUNY New Paltz
President Donald P. Christian

1834
Upstate Medical University
President Danielle Laraque-Arena

1835
The College at Brockport
President Heidi R. Macpherson

1844
University at Albany
President Havidán Rodríguez

1846
University at Buffalo
President Satish K. Tripathi

1860
Downstate Medical Center
President Wayne J. Riley

1861
SUNY Oswego
President Deborah F. Stanley

1868
SUNY Cortland
President Erik J. Bitterbaum

1871
Buffalo State College
President Katherine S. Conway-Turner

1871
SUNY Geneseo
President Denise A. Battles

1874
Maritime College
President Michael A. Alfultis

1889
SUNY Oneonta
President Barbara Jean Morris

1889
SUNY Plattsburgh
President John Ettling

1894
NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University
Dean Lorin D. Warnick

1900
NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
W. Richard Stephens

1904
NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University
Dean Kathryn J. Boor

1906
SUNY Canton
President Zvi Szafran

1908
Alfred State College
President Skip Sullivan

1908
SUNY Morrisville
President David E. Rogers

1911
SUNY Cobleskill
President Marion A. Terenzio

1911
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Interim President David C. Amberg

1912
Farmingdale State College
President John S. Nader

1913
SUNY Delhi
President Michael R. Laliberte

1919
NYS College of Human Ecology at Cornell University
Interim Dean Rachel Dunifon

1944
Fashion Institute of Technology
President Joyce F. Brown

1945
NYS School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University
Dean Kevin F. Hallock

1946
Binghamton University
President Harvey G. Stenger

1946
SUNY Broome Community College
President Kevin E. Drumm

1946
Eric Community College
President Dan Hocoy
The State University of New York*

1946
Mohawk Valley Community College
President Randall J. VanWagoner

1946
Westchester Community College
President Belinda S. Miles

1950
Jamestown Community College
President Daniel T. DeMarle

1950
Orange County Community College
President Kristine M. Young

1953
Cayuga Community College
President Brian M. Durant

1953
Hudson Valley Community College
President Roger A. Ramsammy

1957
Corning Community College
President Katherine P. Douglas

1957
Dutchess Community College
President Pamela R. Edington

1957
Stony Brook University
President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr.

1959
Nassau Community College
President W. Hubert Keen

1959
Rockland Community College
President Michael A. Baston

1959
Suffolk County Community College
President Shawn L. McKay

1961
SUNY Adirondack
President Kristine D. Duffy

1961
Jefferson Community College
President Ty A. Stone

1961
Monroe Community College
President Anne M. Kress

1961
Onondaga Community College
President Casey Crabill

1961
Ulster County Community College
President Alan P. Roberts

1962
Niagara County Community College
Interim President William J. Murabito

1962
Sullivan County Community College
President Jay Quaintance

1963
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
President Dustin Swanger

1965
Finger Lakes Community College
President Robert K. Nye

1965
SUNY Old Westbury
President Calvin O. Butts, III

1966
Clinton Community College
President Ray DiPasquale

1966
Columbia-Greene Community College
President James R. Campion

1966
Genesee Community College
President James M. Sunser

1966
Herkimer County Community College
President Catherine C. McColgin

1967
North Country Community College
President Steve Tyrell

1967
Purchase College
President Thomas J. Schwarz
Officer in Charge Dennis Craig

1967
Schenectady County Community College
President Steady H. Moomo

1968
Tompkins Cortland Community College
President Orinthia T. Montague

1971
College of Optometry
President David A. Heath

1971
Empire State College
Officer in Charge Mitchell S. Nesler

2014
SUNY Polytechnic Institute
Interim President Grace Wang

*Listed by year of founding.
Ceremony Program

INVOCATION
Calvin O. Butts, III
President, SUNY Old Westbury

WELCOME
H. Carl McCall
Chairman, SUNY Board of Trustees

GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY
Anthony Domestico
Purchase College, Associate Professor of Literature

GREETINGS FROM THE STUDENTS
OF THE UNIVERSITY
Kyle Richard
Senior, SUNY Cortland
Biden Courage Award Recipient

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI
OF THE UNIVERSITY
Nana Banerjee
President and Chief Executive Officer, McGraw-Hill Education
Alumnus, Binghamton University

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE UNIVERSITY
Joyce F. Brown
President, Fashion Institute of Technology

GREETINGS FROM ACADEMIA
Karla FC Holloway
James B. Duke Professor Emerita of English, Duke University

GREETINGS FROM GOVERNMENT
Paul D. Tonko
Congressman, United States House of Representatives

REMARKS
Robert E. Freelen
Former Vice President for Public Affairs, Stanford University

VIDEO PRESENTATION
Featuring Friends, Alumni, and Leadership of The State University of New York
INVESTITURE
H. Carl McCall
Chairman, SUNY Board of Trustees

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
Kristina M. Johnson
Chancellor, The State University of New York

BENEDICTION
Joseph M. McShane
President, Fordham University

Please join us for a reception immediately following the ceremony in the John E. Reeves Great Hall.
The Inauguration of Kristina M. Johnson was made possible through private funds.

Musical Performances
Stephanie Blythe, Mezzo-soprano,
Artistic Director of Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar,
Alumna, The Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam

PURCHASE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Mina Kim, Conductor

Violin I
Alex Moy, Concertmaster
Inna Langerman
Symon Bylik
Emily Fredericks
Adrianne Munden-Dixon

Violin II
Evan Ducreay
Michael Mandrin
Jessica Li
Lauren Jenkins

Viola
Michela Christenson
Carolyn Miner
Kate Barmotina

Cello
Nico Mazziotti
Christopher Jung

Bass
Matthew Peralta
Mission

The mission of the state university system shall be to provide to the people of New York educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population in a complete range of academic, professional and vocational postsecondary programs including such additional activities in pursuit of these objectives as are necessary or customary. These services and activities shall be offered through a geographically distributed comprehensive system of diverse campuses which shall have differentiated and designated missions designed to provide a comprehensive program of higher education, to meet the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students and to address local, regional and state needs and goals. In fulfilling this mission, the state university shall exercise care to develop and maintain a balance of its human and physical resources that:

- recognizes the fundamental role of its responsibilities in undergraduate education and provides a full range of graduate and professional education that reflects the opportunity for individual choice and the needs of society;
- establishes tuition which most effectively promotes the university’s access goals;
- encourages and facilitates basic and applied research for the purpose of the creation and dissemination of knowledge vital for continued human, scientific, technological and economic advancement;
- strengthens its educational and research programs in the health sciences through the provision of high quality general comprehensive and specialty health care, broadly accessible at reasonable cost, in its hospitals, clinics and related programs and through networks and joint and cooperative relationships with other health care providers and institutions, including those on a regional basis;
- shares the expertise of the state university with the business, agricultural, governmental, labor and nonprofit sectors of the state through a program of public service for the purpose of enhancing the well-being of the people of the state of New York and in protecting our environmental and marine resources;
- encourage, support and participate through facility planning and projects, personnel policies and programs with local governments, school districts, businesses and civic sectors of host communities regarding the health of local economies and quality of life;
- promotes appropriate program articulation between its state-operated institutions and its community colleges as well as encourages regional networks and cooperative relationships with other educational and cultural institutions for the purpose of better fulfilling its mission of education, research and service.

NYS Education Law, Section 351
Motto

In 1978, a new era of educational opportunity came to life in the State of New York. The SUNY System Administration moved to its current home in the SUNY Plaza, and Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. was at the helm, with an entirely new view of what excellence at SUNY must entail. The opportunity for higher education and the impact of its results on the community had been deeply changed in the 30 years since SUNY’s establishment. A rallying cry for SUNY was required, giving rise to a new motto on May 24, 1978: To learn, to search, to serve. Today, 40 years after the motto was born, SUNY re-establishes its commitment to these guiding principles.

**To Learn**
The opportunities a SUNY education provides are unmatched. We are a system dedicated to diversity, with the belief that higher education should be within the grasp of every New Yorker. We stand fast in our commitment to preserving and constantly improving the experience of a SUNY education.

**To Search**
With higher learning must come an unceasing dedication to excellence—excellence in scholarship, excellence in leadership, excellence in research and discovery, excellence in economic development. The search for greater and better knowledge must remain relentless in our students, faculty, and staff.

**To Serve**
With opportunity and excellence must come positive impact. It is not enough to learn for ourselves alone. We must share our knowledge and discoveries. We must serve the communities we call home throughout this great state. We must reaffirm our commitment to using the SUNY system and the education and research it provides as an engine of service to the people of New York and the citizens of the world.