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Chancellor Nancy Zimpher on SUNY/state symbiosis

New York's investment in universities and incoming chip-makers, including Intel and Samsung, is an investment in jobs and in the future.

Nancy L. Zimpher

Published: October 9, 2011 - 5:59 am

Just how important is higher education to New York's economic future? Important enough to be the linchpin of an extraordinary agreement announced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo that will bring \$4.4 billion and an estimated 6,900 jobs to the state. The decision by IBM, Intel, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing, GlobalFoundries and Samsung to build the next generation of computer chip technology in New York state is exciting, largely because it shows that the high-tech industry recognizes the state's commitment to public higher education and to the development of the skills that the field requires.

The research and job-creation capacity of the State University of New York, New York's 64-campus public university system, makes this ambitious partnership with five of the world's leading technology firms a wise investment for the state (which will back the project with a \$400 million contribution to SUNY's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering in Albany). And we're not just creating jobs: We're creating -tomorrow's jobs, cutting-edge jobs that will sustain the industry and tax revenue for generations. This agreement pushes New York's economic recovery toward the firmer, long-term footing of 21st-century technology.

The university system is playing a critical role in the development of new computer chip technology, hosting research facilities at the SUNYIT campus in Utica, the Albany CNSE and the CNSE Smart System Technology & Commercialization Center in Canandaigua. These facilities alone will be home to 1,550 new jobs—with more likely to follow, as the major technology firms coming to our state bring industry suppliers and other busi-nesses in their wake.

Credit the leadership of Mr. Cuomo for bringing together a vital high-tech industry and SUNY's capacity for research.

The governor came into office touting higher education—and SUNY, specifically—as a vital driver of economic growth and recovery. He has nurtured that critical relationship first by ensuring a SUNY presence on each of his regional economic development councils and also by enacting NYSUNY 2020, which empowers our university centers to facilitate job growth throughout New York.

In return, SUNY will be accountable. We have launched the SUNY Report Card, which will publicly track our performance as an educator and economic engine. This level of transparency makes good on our solemn promise that as we carry out our strategic plan, SUNY will be a leading catalyst of the state's economic recovery.

Only as the New York-SUNY partnership continues to thrive will we achieve our mutual long-term goal of creating jobs and training the graduates who will fill them. To be sure, an investment in SUNY is an investment in the future of New York state.

Nancy L. Zimpher is chancellor of the State University of New York.

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