



SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the August edition of the SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter.

We've officially kicked off the Fall 2025 semester! As summer ends, Chancellor King is continuing his SUNY Reconnect Tour to promote Governor Hochul's initiative to offer free community college to adult learners aged 25-55 who pursue an associate degree program in high demand fields.

This month has been full of campus visits and exciting summer programs. The government relations team joined Chancellor King across New York State to meet with current and prospective SUNY students, including veterans, adult learners, AI and RNA researchers, and those in EOP, ASAP and ACE, and the Empire State Service Corps.

These unique programs and opportunities are only possible thanks to the continued support of Governor Hochul, the State Legislature, and New York's Congressional Delegation.

As always, SUNY strives to deliver affordability, excellence, and opportunity for every New Yorker.

Sincerely,

Will Schwartz
Vice Chancellor for Government Relations



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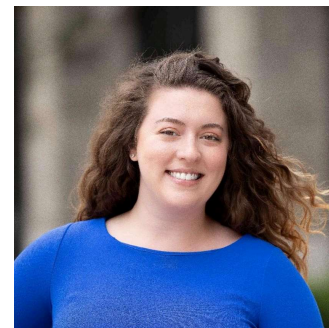
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SUNY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Blake Washington, Lea Webb: SUNY's EOP Program Offers Future Leaders Opportunity. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces 12 Inaugural Awardees of SUNY Healthcare Educator Scholarship Program. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Launches Research Leadership Academy to Empower Next Generation of Top Tier Researchers. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces First Empire AI Supercomputer Projects from the University at Albany. [Read more](#)
- Stony Brook University President Andrea Goldsmith started her first day on campus. Read her message to the Seawolf Community [here](#).
- Chancellor King Celebrates Winners and Participants of SUNY Startup Summer School Demo Day. [Read more](#)
- Former Assemblymember Billy Jones will lead Clinton Community College's Institute for Advanced Manufacturing. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King to Visit Western New York Campuses to Showcase SUNY's Affordability and Excellence Ahead of Fall Semester. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Conclusion of Statewide Public Listening Sessions on Community College Rulemaking Proposal. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King Announce the Appointment of Dr. Anne D'Alleva as the Eighth President of Binghamton University. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Welcomes SUNY Reconnect Students to Community Colleges Throughout New York State. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Signs Landmark Legislation to Protect Students Against Discrimination and Bolster Campus Safety. [Read more](#)

TRIVIA

Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D., was the first woman to earn an M.D. from an accredited medical school in 1849.

What is that medical school now known as?

Stony Brook University

University at Buffalo

Upstate Medical University

SUNY Research Spotlight

Across the SUNY System, our campuses conduct a vast amount of groundbreaking research, producing innovations and insights with far-reaching benefits not only for New Yorkers, but for people across the globe. Here are a few recent highlights:

- **Stony Brook University Hospital** has been named in the top 10 Best Hospitals in New York State for 2025-26 by U.S. News and World Report. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** marks 10 years of the New York State Mesonet. [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo** researchers report prediabetes is more life-threatening for people aged 20-54. [Read more](#)
- Six **Binghamton University** faculty members win \$4.4 million in CAREER Awards from the National Science Foundation. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** researchers awarded \$1.6 million by Air Force research lab. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Poly** professor lands \$175K grant for wireless network research. [Read more](#)

A LOOK BACK

SUNY in D.C.

On July 30, Chancellor King joined Will Schwartz on Capitol Hill to meet with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to discuss SUNY's federal priorities, including robust funding for scientific research, Pell grants, and other student aid programs. These engagements are critical to keeping SUNY's priorities front and center as Congress negotiates funding for Fiscal Year 2026.



Campus Visits

The Office of Government Relations (OGR) team travelled around New York State this month, visiting campuses, engaging with students, and experiencing the wide range of opportunities SUNY has to offer!

Additionally, the OGR team joined Chancellor King on his visits to campuses across New York State. This month, we had the pleasure of visiting the University at Albany, SUNY Niagara, University at Buffalo, Buffalo State University, SUNY Fredonia, Jamestown Community College, SUNY Erie Community College, Alfred State, SUNY Oneonta, and Upstate Medical University. We even stopped by the NYS Fair!

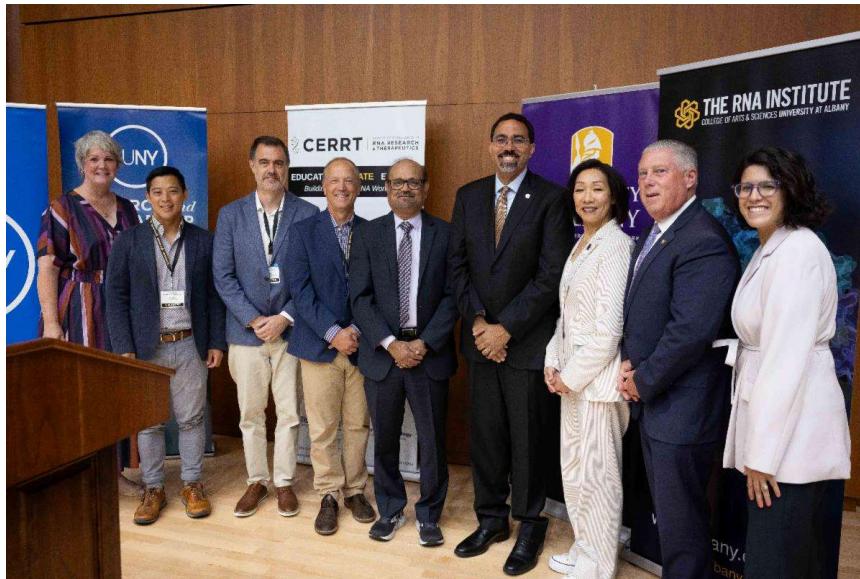
On July 31, Maria and Carter Strickland, SUNY's Chief Sustainability Officer, traveled to **SUNY ESF's** Newcomb campus to participate in a day of paddling to the Hudson River with students from the second session of the **Timbuctoo Climate Science and Careers Summer Institute**. Through a two-week immersive summer program, the Timbuctoo Institute exposes high school students to environmental science and social justice topics. Thank you New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian (NYS BPHA) Legislative Caucus Chair Assemblymember Michaëlle Solages; NYS BPHA Legislative Caucus Executive Director Joshua Joseph; Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Amanda Lefton; and the

Adirondack Council's Executive Director Raul "Rocci" Aguirre for joining us for a day on the water!



On August 1, Will joined Chancellor King at the **University at Albany's** RNA Institute to celebrate World RNA Day. Chancellor King announced a crucial partnership between the RNA Institute and Empire AI as a result of Governor Hochul's Empire AI initiative. Thank you to Assemblymember John McDonald and Assemblymember Gabriella Romero for joining us for this event and meeting with students to discuss their RNA research.

More photos available [here](#).



On August 13, Sydney joined Chancellor King on a visit to **SUNY Niagara** for the sixth stop of his SUNY Reconnect Tour to promote Governor Hochul's free

community college program for adult learners. Chancellor King visited and spoke with students from SUNY Niagara's welding technology associate degree program, an eligible program under SUNY Reconnect.

Thank you to Assemblymember Bill Conrad and Niagara County Legislator Jeffrey Elder for joining us!

Read more about the visit [here](#).

More photos available [here](#).



Later that day, Will and Sydney travelled with Chancellor King to the **University at Buffalo** for a roundtable discussion on Empire AI and research. The University at Buffalo launched its first-of-its-kind "AI + X" degrees, which combines AI with traditional academic disciplines, including communications, economics, language, and policy analysis. This new program prepares students for the anticipated growth of AI applications across various industries.

Thank you Representative Joe Morelle; Senator Patrick Gallivan; Assemblymember Karen McMahon; the Governor's Director of Western New York Community Relations, Mo Sumbundu; Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's Western New York Regional Deputy Director, Emma DeForest; and Representative Tim Kennedy's Chief of Staff Adam Fogel for joining us for the visit and participating in the AI Roundtable.

More photos available [here](#).



The final stop of the day was **Buffalo State University**, where Will and Sydney joined Chancellor King to meet with Empire State Service Summer

Corps students. This cohort recently completed their summer of service, contributing to initiatives in sustainability, K-12 tutoring, FAFSA completion, SNAP and basic needs support, anti-hate and bias prevention, and more. The program offers a unique opportunity for students to gain valuable community service and career development experience while earning a stipend.

Thank you to Assemblymember Jonathan Rivera and Assemblymember Karen McMahon for joining us for an engaging discussion.

Read more about the visit [here](#).

More photos available [here](#).



On August 14, Will and Sydney joined Chancellor King for another stop on his SUNY Reconnect Tour, **SUNY Erie Community College**. Chancellor King highlighted many of SUNY Erie's Reconnect programs such as nursing, automotive technology, and information technology. Chancellor King also participated in the grand opening of SUNY Erie's south location in Orchard Park, which will house a science lab, computer lab, library, food pantry, and more!

Thank you to Senator Patrick Gallivan; Assemblymember Patrick Burke; Assemblymember Bill Conrad; Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz; the Governor's Director of Western New York Community Relations, Mo Sumbundu; and Erie County Clerk Mickey Kearns for attending.

Read more about the visit [here](#).

More photos available [here](#).



Lastly, Sydney joined Chancellor King for one final stop of the SUNY Reconnect Tour in Western New York at **Jamestown Community College**. Chancellor King toured Jamestown's associate's degree program in nursing, a participating program of SUNY Reconnect, and their veteran's lounge.

Thank you to Senator George Borrello and Chautauqua County Executive Paul Wendel, Jr. for joining us!

Read more about the visit [here](#).

More photos available [here](#).



On August 15, Sydney joined Chancellor King on a visit to **Alfred State College** to celebrate a \$285,000 grant to invest in EV technology to prepare the workforce of tomorrow. This grant is funded by Governor Kathy Hochul's SUNY Transformation Fund to develop a skilled green workforce and encourage students to pursue clean energy jobs. The Chancellor also participated in a ribbon cutting of The Collegiate Restaurant that will reopen this fall.

Thank you to Senator Tom O'Mara, Assemblymember Joe Sempolinski, and Alfred Mayor Jim Ninos for joining us!

Read more about the visit [here](#).

More photos available [here](#).



On August 18, Will joined Chancellor King, Executive Vice President of Stony Brook Medicine, Dr. Bill Wertheim; Secretary to the Governor, Karen Keough; Associate Vice President for Government Relations, Carl Mills; Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of Stony Brook Hospital, Carol Gomes; and other Stony Brook Medicine leaders for a tour of **Stony Brook's Southampton campus** and the East Hampton Emergency Department.



On August 18, we held the Building Futures: EOP Summer Send-off at SUNY Global to celebrate the incoming freshman class of SUNY's Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Thank you to EOP alum Senator Robert Jackson and New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus Chair Assemblymember Michaelle Solages for joining EOP students and directors from across the downstate region for a night of networking, mentorship, and celebration.

More photos available [here](#).



On August 20, Maria joined Chancellor King for **SUNY Oneonta's** move-in day. Chancellor King, President Cardelle, and Senator Peter Oberacker greeted new students and their families moving onto campus. Chancellor King also visited the campus's new collaborative satellite day habilitation program with Springbrook called GoZone, met with SUNY Institute for Local News's students at the newly renovated OnNY Media Lab, and learned about SUNY Oneonta's sustainability initiatives from the Empire State Service Corps interns.

Read more about the visit [here](#).

More photos available [here](#).



On August 21, Maria joined Chancellor King at the New York State Fair for Agriculture Career and Student Youth Day. Chancellor King and State Agriculture Commissioner Richard Ball toured the fairgrounds including visiting with students and staff from SUNY ESF, SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Cobleskill, and Binghamton University.

More photos available [here](#).



Later that day, Maria and Chancellor King joined Assembly Higher Education Chair Alicia Hyndman and Assemblymember Al Stirpe for a tour of Upstate Medical University's Simulation Department. The Simulation Department consists of 22 clinic exam rooms, an operating room, six simulation acute care suites, and a haptics training room to help train the healthcare

professionals of the future. Chancellor King and Chair Hyndman also spoke to residents and medical students about their experience at Upstate.

More photos available [here](#).

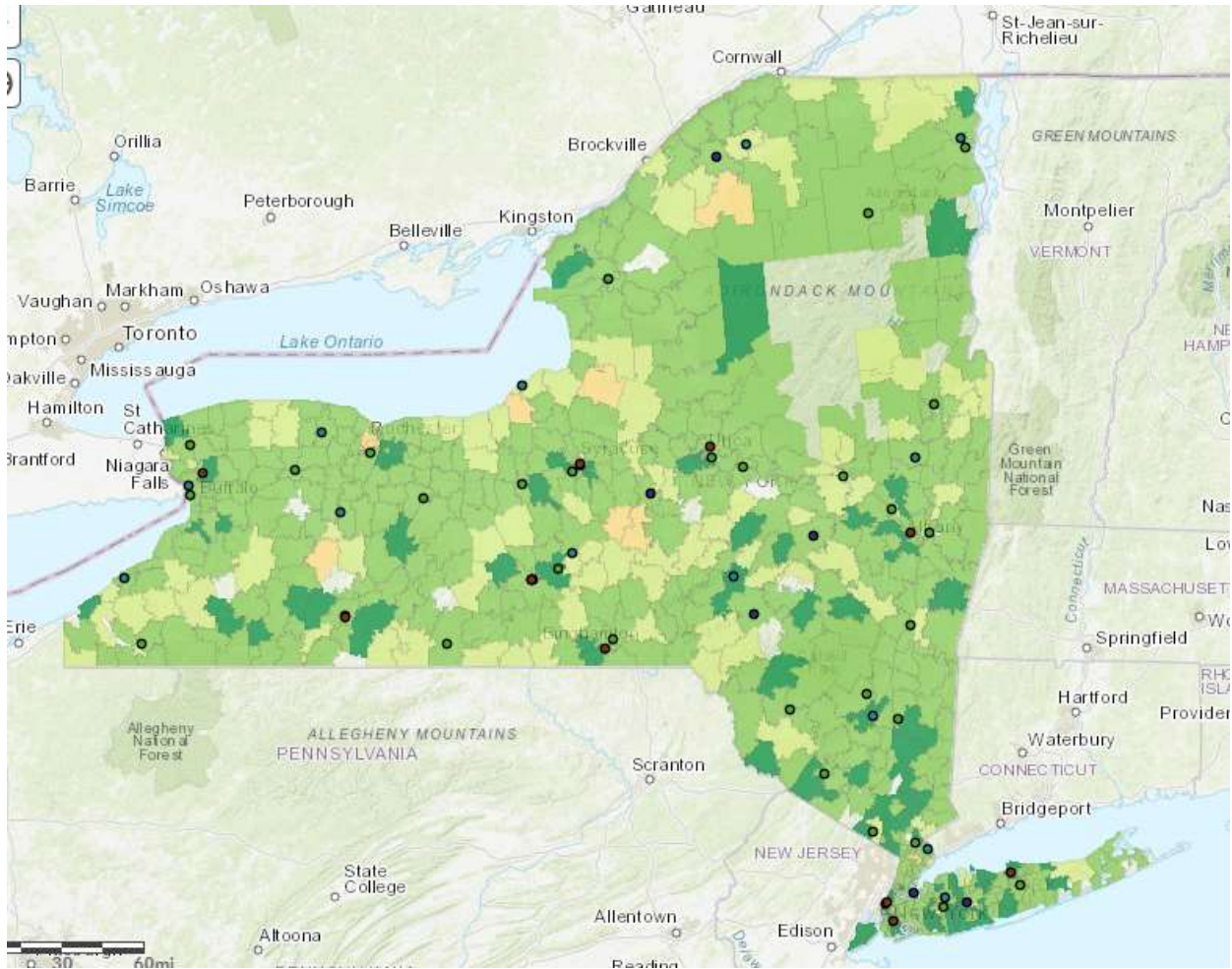


FAFSA Update

Please encourage your local school districts to ensure that students and their families are completing the FAFSA in order to be eligible for financial aid!

Through August 22, 2025, the data reflects that:

- **65.0% of the estimated class of 2025 in New York has completed a FAFSA.**
- There have been **138,065 submissions** in New York (an increase of 15,127 compared to this time last year).
- There are 47 districts with FAFSA submission rates above 80%.
- Nationally, 58.5% of the estimated class of 2025 have submitted a FAFSA. New York is in 6th place in the country. (Mississippi is #1 at 69.2%)
- See how New York districts are doing on this interactive map [here](#).
- Find resources for applying for financial aid [here](#).



Percent FAFSA Completion:



Trivia Answer

*Elizabeth Blackwell graduated from Geneva Medical College, now known as **Upstate Medical University**.*

Dr. Blackwell graduated top of her class in 1849. Geneva Medical College moved from Hobart and William Smith Colleges to Syracuse University, to

now SUNY Upstate Medical University.

To read more about her story, click [here](#).

Looking towards the future

- The New York State Assembly Undergraduate and Graduate Internship Program applications have opened. Check it out [here](#).
- The Empire State Service Corps 2025-26 applications have opened. Learn more [here](#).
- The SUNY Washington Internship Program Spring 2026 applications have opened. Learn more [here](#).

Keep up with SUNY and the Office of Government Relations

- Take a peek at OGR's newly designed website [here](#).
- Check out SUNY's legislative memos on our website [here](#).
- Join the SUNY team! Look for careers at SUNY [here](#).

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