



SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter

Dear Friend,

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on a year of remarkable progress, collaboration, and advocacy on behalf of SUNY students, faculty, and staff across New York State. This was a year defined by historic investments, renewed partnerships, and a deepened commitment to advancing SUNY's mission of providing affordable and accessible high-quality education for all. This newsletter serves to reflect on and celebrate our collective successes and showcase that **SUNY is on the move**. We look forward to continuing this momentum into the new year.

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and Higher Education Committee Chairs Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman, along with all of our SUNY champions in the Legislature, this year's budget delivered historic investments in public higher education.

The FY 2025-26 Enacted State Budget included key wins such as \$114 million in **increased operating aid** for State-operated campuses, consecutive increases in **community college operating aid** for the first time in decades, \$28.2 million for **SUNY Reconnect**, \$12 million to expand **ASAP and ACE**, and maintenance of the 100 percent community college funding floor. Major capital investments include \$550 million for critical maintenance, \$450 million for Upstate Medical University, \$1.1 billion in total investment for Downstate Medical University, \$300 million for the New York State Innovation Fund, and \$90 for the Empire AI Consortium will help strengthen our campuses and promote increased research and innovation statewide.

Our federal advocacy this year was equally strong. The Office of Government Relations (OGR) team worked closely with members of New York's congressional delegation and higher education partners in Washington, D.C. to advance federal priorities vital to our campuses and students. From supporting Pell Grants and research programs, to investing in AI research and

clean energy, SUNY's voice was ever-present in the national higher education dialogue.

Beyond the Capitol, OGR continued to strengthen connections across campuses and communities. Through campus visits, research expos, and roundtable discussions, we convened policymakers, campus leaders, faculty, staff, and students to highlight SUNY's impact. We proudly hosted and participated in events that celebrated SUNY's diversity, innovation, and service across the 64 campuses.

As we look to the 2026 legislative session and a new year of advocacy, we remain deeply optimistic about SUNY's future. The past year has demonstrated what is possible when we work together, with state leaders, federal partners, campus advocates, and community champions, united around a shared belief in the transformative power of public higher education.

From all of us at the Office of Government Relations, thank you for your partnership, support, and dedication throughout the year. We look forward to building on this momentum in 2026 as we continue to champion SUNY's four pillars: **student success; research and scholarship; diversity, equity, and inclusion; economic development and upward mobility.**

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holiday season and a happy new year!

Sincerely,

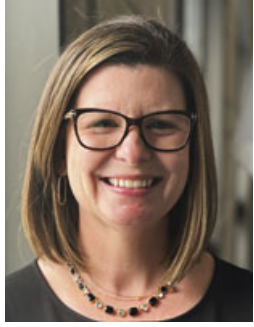
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December SUNY News Highlights

- Governor Hochul Announces Design Phase Set To Begin for \$1.1 Billion Investment at SUNY Downstate's Hospital. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces Design Phase Set to Begin for \$450 Million Hospital Annex at SUNY Upstate Medical. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Chancellor King Commemorates International Day of Persons with Disabilities with Launch of the SUNY Disability Support Leadership Institute. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Chancellor King Announces Winners of the 2025 University Police Awards. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces \$32 Million Investment in State-of-the-Art Applied Technology Facility for Advanced Manufacturing Training at SUNY Delhi. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Chancellor King Announces Second Cohort of Accessibility Advocates and Allies Faculty Fellows. [Read more](#)

- Did you miss SUNY's Free Application Weeks? You may still be able to apply for free. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Expands Clean Energy Workforce Commitment with \$40 Million in New Funding to Fuel New York's Advanced Nuclear Energy Workforce. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Chancellor King Announces Post-Release Fellowship to Support Higher Education in Prison Alumni to Achieve Success. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Chancellor King Announces Nearly \$1 Million Investment to Expand Pathways to Nursing Careers. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Chancellor King Highlights Additional Supports for SUNY Reconnect Student Retention. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Chancellor King Announces Funding for Groundbreaking Technologies to Improve Lives and Protect New Yorkers. [Read more](#)

Trivia

Did you know that in 2016 the Rockefeller Plaza Christmas tree came from a SUNY alum?

The tree donor graduated from...

SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech

SUNY Oneonta

SUNY Cortland

SUNY ESF

December 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:

- College students flock to a new major: A.I. [Read more](#)
- UAlbany launches master's program in artificial intelligence for business. [Read more](#)

- University at Buffalo spinout Auspex Medix advances AI-powered hearing test to help older adults thwart cognitive decline, Alzheimer's. [Read more](#)
- Why Spotify Wrapped goes viral every year: Binghamton University experts weigh in. [Read more](#)
- Exploring Bacterial Communities with Stony Brook University Professor Elizabeth Boon. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Poly Professor of Physics Dr. Amir Fariborz Offers New Look at Hidden Structure Inside Subatomic Particles. [Read more](#)
- Onondaga Community College opens Micron cleanroom to train workforce. [Read more](#)
- UB study reveals shift in pharmacy students' perceptions of patients with mental illness. [Read more](#)
- UAlbany Atmospheric Scientist Proposes Innovative Method to Reduce Aviation's Climate Impact. [Read more](#)
- Flipping the script: How an international student is rewriting his story through the Cinema Department at Binghamton University. [Read more](#)
- NYPA Awards Stony Brook \$644K for Clean Energy Workforce Development. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Expands Clean Energy Workforce Commitment with \$40 Million in New Funding to Fuel New York's Advanced Nuclear Energy Workforce. [Read more](#)
- FIT tops 2025 ranking of the world's best fashion schools. [Read more](#)
- SUNY program delivers career boost to more than 3,000 SBU students while helping local start-ups thrive. [Read more](#)
- LZ Sets a World's Best in the Hunt for Galactic Dark Matter. [Read more](#)
- UAlbany Researchers Launch Winter Storm Preparedness Tool for Erie County. [Read more](#)
- UB's Sathy Balu-Iyer named 2025 fellow in the National Academy of Inventors. [Read more](#)
- Dozens of UAlbany Researchers Among World's Top 2% of Scientists. [Read more](#)
- Can AI help forecasters better predict destructive hurricanes? [Read more](#)
- Buffalo State End of Year Highlights. [Read more](#)
- SUNY ESF Provides Fire Ecology Leadership in Regional FIRE-NET Wildfire Resilience Collaboration. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Oswego contributes expertise to FIRE-NET initiative. [Read more](#)
- UAlbany researchers develop compound to treat Huntington's and dozens of similar diseases. [Read more](#)
- The Quantum Internet Is Coming Online. [Read more](#)
- FOXG1 expert Soo-Kyung Lee to be honored at next Spotlight Symposia. [Read more](#)

- Researchers say funding is critical to understanding the effects of social media. [Read more](#)
- \$380K in Bridge Funding Sustains Critical UAlbany Research. [Read more](#)

December 2025

SUNY Board of Trustees Budget Request

The SUNY Board of Trustees 2026-27 budget request [resolution](#) outlines a strategic vision to sustain the historic progress that has been made in public higher education across New York in recent years.

The proposal requests an increase in **operating aid**, including:

- Continuing the Resident Undergraduate Tuition Freeze
 - \$55 million in lieu of a resident undergraduate tuition increase
 - State Negotiated Contracts, including \$42.2M for known contracts and amount to be determined if the State approves additional contracts
- Continued investment in SUNY Students
 - \$26 million child care expansion for student parents
 - \$17.5 million EOP investment
 - \$8 million expansion of community college investment
 - \$8 million fulfilling the promise of ASAP | ACE
 - \$3 million Higher Education in Prison
 - \$2.8 million expansion of the Empire State Service Corps
 - \$0.4 million Timbuctoo program support
- Investment in getting the word out about SUNY's Affordable Excellence
 - \$10 million increased marketing investment

The **capital funding** requests include:

- \$460 million investment in SUNY research
- \$600 million in critical maintenance
- \$400 million for emergency avoidance
- \$165 million State Match Supporting the State/Local Partnership in Community College Facilities Investment

The **hospital funding** requests include:

- \$82 million reinvestment in hospital resources
- \$100 million Downstate operational support
- \$75 million year one of a multi-year plan to address hospital fringe benefit costs
- \$150 million support in hospital infrastructure

Empire State Service Corps Summit

On December 5 and 6, the second annual Empire State Service Corps Summit took place in Albany. Corps members from across the state convened to participate in programming to enrich their service experience, network, build relationships, and hear from speakers, including Senator Pat Fahy, Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara, Assemblymember John T. McDonald III, and Assemblymember Dr. Anna Kelles. We also had the privilege of hosting a special guest named Wiley, a SUNY Cobleskill therapy dog.







Mohawk Valley Community College and Herkimer Community College

On December 9, Will and Valerie Dent, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, visited Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) and Herkimer Community College. At MVCC they met with MVCC President Randy VanWagoner and members of the MVCC Board of Trustees to hear more about how MVCC is meeting the workforce needs of the Mohawk Valley. President VanWagoner also shared his passion for the campus leading on emerging fields like AI.



2025 Year in Review

Federal Advocacy Recap

Thanks to efforts led by Director of Federal Relations, Whitney Riggs, SUNY's presence is strong in Washington. Since Whitney joined us in February, we have had over 50 advocacy meetings in D.C. with Senate and House leadership, members of New York's congressional delegation, and staff.

D.C. Day 2025

On December 2 and 3, Chancellor King, SUNY presidents and campus leaders travelled to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of New York's congressional delegation. Thoughtful discussion took place regarding the top issues affecting the higher education landscape today. It was also an opportunity to thank our representatives for their support and continued advocacy on behalf of SUNY.











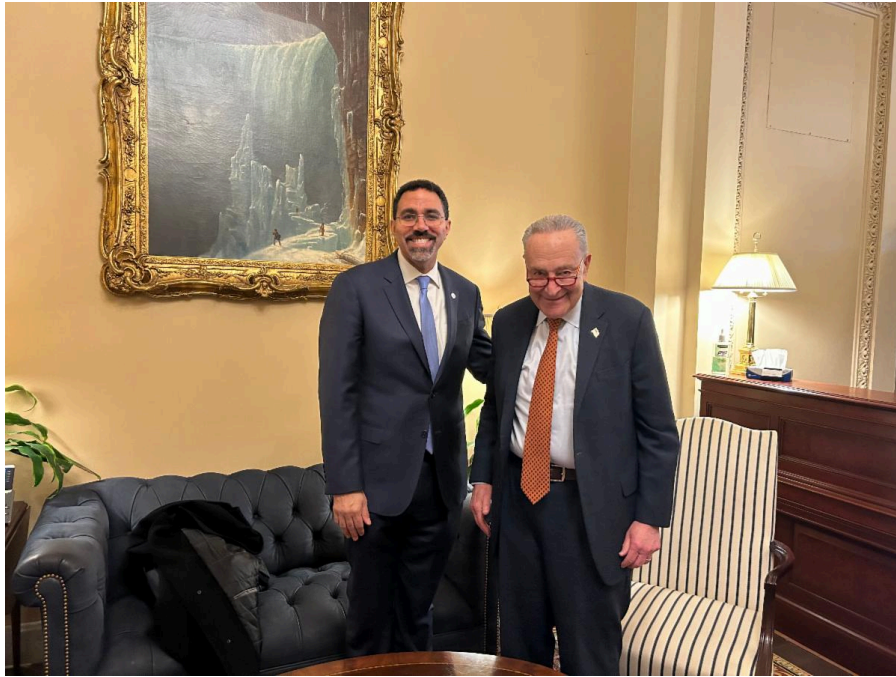




Our sincerest thanks to each and every SUNY campus president and colleague who made the trip to D.C. to participate in this successful advocacy day. Special thanks to the offices of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, and Representative Paul Tonko for making this day possible. We would also like to thank our other speakers: Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, Director of the National Institutes of Health; Craig Lindwarm, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs at The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities; Debbie Altenburg, Vice President for Research Policy and Advocacy at The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities; and Cyrus Artz, Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of the Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson.

Over the course of the past year, SUNY has advocated in support of funding for scientific research, Pell Grants, and TRIO, while also highlighting the importance of workforce development and industry partnerships. These

engagements have been critical in ensuring SUNY's priorities are front and center in the nation's capital.



On February 12, Chancellor King met with Leader Chuck Schumer to discuss SUNY's critical research funding.



On July 22, Chancellor King met with Leader Hakeem Jeffries to discuss SUNY's federal priorities.



On July 30, Chancellor King and Will met with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to discuss SUNY's federal priorities, including robust funding for scientific research, Pell grants, and other student aid programs.



On July 22, Chancellor King, Will, Whitney, and Lauren Brookmeyer, Stony Brook University's Associate Vice President for Federal Relations, met with Representative Nick LaLota to discuss SUNY's federal priorities, including robust funding for scientific research, Pell grants, and other student aid programs.



On September 3, Whitney and a delegation of community college leaders including SUNY Community College Presidents Robert Nye, Warren Hilton, Edward Bonahue, and Joe Keegan; SUNY Trustee and Faculty Council of Community Colleges President, Candice Vacin; SUNY Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, Valerie Dent; and SUNY Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development, Chris White, met with members of New York State's Congressional Delegation. This included Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Rep. Nick LaLota, Rep. John Mannion, Rep Claudia Tenney, Senate HELP Majority staff, House Education and Workforce Majority staff, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's staff, and Rep. Pat Ryan's staff.

State Budget Recap

FY 2025-26 State Budget Highlights

Thank you to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Higher Education Committee Chairs Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman, and all of our other SUNY champions in the State Legislature, for their continued commitment to public higher education, resulting in historic investment in SUNY this past year. Under their leadership, every State-operated campus received at least a 30% increase in operating aid over the last three years.

The FY 2025-26 enacted state budget included:

- \$114 million in operating aid for state-operated campuses

- \$28.2 million for SUNY Reconnect to provide free tuition, fees, books, and supplies, after applicable financial aid, for adult learners ages 25-55 years old without a college degree, helping more New Yorkers earn an associate's degree in high-demand fields at our Community Colleges.
- \$12 million to expand ASAP and ACE
- \$8 million in additional operating aid for community colleges (the first time in decades that community colleges have received two consecutive years of operating aid increases)
- Maintenance of the 100% community college floor
- \$2.5 million for EOP

Capital:

- \$550 million for critical maintenance
- \$450 million for Upstate Medical University
- \$450 million for Downstate Medical University, bringing the two-year total to \$750 million as part of a \$1.1 billion reinvestment project
- \$300 million for the New York State Innovation Fund research capital investment
- \$200 million for thermal energy networks at public and state-owned buildings
- \$131 million to match the local sponsor share for community colleges
- \$90 million for the Empire AI Consortium
- \$60 million for flexible capital
- \$25 million to establish the SUNY Green Energy Loan Fund

Chancellor King and OGR worked tirelessly during budget season to ensure SUNY voices are heard and this hard work paid off. During budget season, Chancellor King and the OGR team held **over 115 meetings** with legislative leadership, Senators, Assemblymembers, members' staff, and central staff.

This advocacy led to:

- **More Than \$10 Million** in new funding for Capital Region campuses
- **\$3.3 Million** in new funding for North Country campuses
- **Nearly \$3.8 Million** in new funding for Hudson Valley campuses
- **Nearly \$4 Million** in new funding for Greater Rochester Region campuses
- **More Than \$20 Million** in new funding for Western New York campuses
- **Nearly \$12 Million** in new funding for New York City campuses
- **\$37 Million** in new funding for Long Island campuses
- **Nearly \$8.8 Million** in new funding for Southern Tier campuses
- **More Than \$28 Million** in new funding for Central New York campuses

SUNY Reconnect Tour

In June, Chancellor King launched the **SUNY Reconnect Tour** to promote Governor Hochul's SUNY Reconnect Initiative, which provides free tuition, fees, books, and supplies for adults ages 25-55 who do not already have a college degree and choose to pursue an associate degree in a high-demand field. Throughout the summer and fall, Chancellor King visited SUNY community colleges throughout the state, including:

- **Tompkins Cortland Community College**
- **SUNY Schenectady County Community College**
- **Jefferson Community College**
- **SUNY Niagara**
- **SUNY Erie Community College**
- **Jamestown Community College**
- **Monroe Community College**
- **SUNY Broome**
- **SUNY Adirondack**
- **SUNY Rockland Community College**
- **SUNY Ulster**
- **SUNY Westchester**

We are thrilled to witness all the opportunities SUNY Reconnect will offer students. Check out this **instagram reel** to learn more about how Corning Community College has worked to align schedules with employee shift times, making it easier for full-time workers to earn their degrees. Follow this **link** to read a personal story from an Onondaga Community College student.



Chancellor King with Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.



Chancellor King with Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie.



Chancellor King with Higher Education Committee Chairs Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman and Senator Toby Ann Stavisky.



Chancellor King and Will with Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes.



Chancellor King with Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chair J. Gary Pretlow.

Events Recap

The OGR team hosted and attended a number of events celebrating and showcasing SUNY excellence this year.

SUNY kicked off the 2025 legislative session on January 27 with a Friends of SUNY Reception in The Well of the Legislative Office Building. We had an amazing turnout, with over 200 elected officials, campus representatives, and other distinguished guests in attendance, including Governor Kathy Hochul.



On February 10, Chancellor King hosted a Higher Education Committee Reception in the Gallery of the H. Carl McCall SUNY Building. We were thrilled to welcome Higher Education Committee Chairs Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman along with other members of the Senate and Assembly Higher Education Committees.



On February 26, Chancellor King hosted the SUNY Legislative Alumni Breakfast to celebrate our SUNY alumni serving in the State Legislature. We appreciate each and every one of our 65 (and counting!) proud alumni representing SUNY in the State Legislature.

On March 10, Chancellor King welcomed New York State leaders to celebrate Women's History Month.



On March 18, OGR, in partnership with the SUNY Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development, hosted a SUNY Research Expo in the Legislative Office Building in Albany. Thank you to the incredible researchers from the University at Albany, SUNY ESF, Binghamton University, Stony Brook University, and the University at Buffalo for making the trip to show off their impressive work. This research expo helped highlight the ways in which New York State's investment in research facilities is paying dividends.





On May 21, Chancellor King delivered his third annual State of the University Address, outlining SUNY's continued investment in students, faculty, staff, and research despite nation-wide cuts to higher education. Chancellor King announced new initiatives designed to help students succeed and to create new paths forward to bolster research, advance diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels, and grow SUNY's role as an economic driver.

SUNY will continue to advance a series of initiatives in the coming year to help empower students, invest in communities, and move New York forward, including:

- Expanding ethical AI education and workforce development by connecting SUNY's university centers with regional comprehensive colleges and community colleges.
- Closing the internship gap for SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students.
- Expanding ASAP and ACE college completion initiatives to reach 7,000 students this fall, up from 4,200, on the path to 10,000 students in two years.
- Piloting evening and weekend childcare at community colleges.
- Promoting the Governor's free community college program through SUNY Reconnect and helping community colleges with funding to cover equipment and other one-time needs to handle the anticipated increase in enrollment in high-demand, high-cost programs.

Thank you to elected officials, campus representatives, presidents, and other distinguished guests who attended this event.

See the full transcript, policy book, and video [here](#). See more photos [here](#).



On August 18, OGR hosted 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 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](#).





UAlbany Research Tour

On November 21, OGR had the pleasure of touring UAlbany and learning about the cutting-edge research taking place on campus on topics ranging from weather prediction to AI. Thank you to our gracious hosts at UAlbany and to the central staff of the New York State Senate and Assembly who took the time to join us.



Campus Visits Recap

The OGR team travelled around New York State this year, visiting campuses, engaging with students, and experiencing the wide range of opportunities SUNY has to offer. We made over 50 trips to SUNY campuses this year.



On March 28, the OGR team visited **Purchase College** to explore campus, including the Performing Arts Center and Senior Learning Community. Thank you to President Milly Pena; Government Relations Liaison and Director of Intergenerational Learning, Kelly Jackson; Assistant Director of Public Relations, Betsy Aldredge; Vice President for Administration, Mike Kopas; and Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Patty Bice.



On April 25, the OGR team visited **SUNY ESF** for an insightful tour of its impressive facilities. Thank you to Matthew Milea, Chief of Staff and Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives, for hosting us. Special thanks to Mark Lichtenstein, Executive Operating Officer, and Diana Jaramillo Keane, Executive Director of Sustainable Facilities Planning, Design, and Construction, for guiding us around campus.



On June 12, the OGR team toured **Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT)**, seeing a sneak peek of the new Joyce F. Brown Academic Building, the cutting-edge Design and Technology Lab, and the Knitwear and Stoll Lab. Thank you to Deputy to the President, Jen LoTurco and Director of Government and Community Relations, Lisa Wager for the amazing tour!



On June 23, the OGR team visited **SUNY Polytechnic Institute** to tour the Student Center, Donovan Hall labs, and the Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing. Thank you to President Wole Soboyejo and Chief of Staff Wayne Westervelt for the incredible tour.



On August 1, Will Schwartz 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.



On August 13, Will and Sydney joined Chancellor King at the **University at Buffalo** for a roundtable discussion on Empire AI and research happening at UB. Thank you to 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.

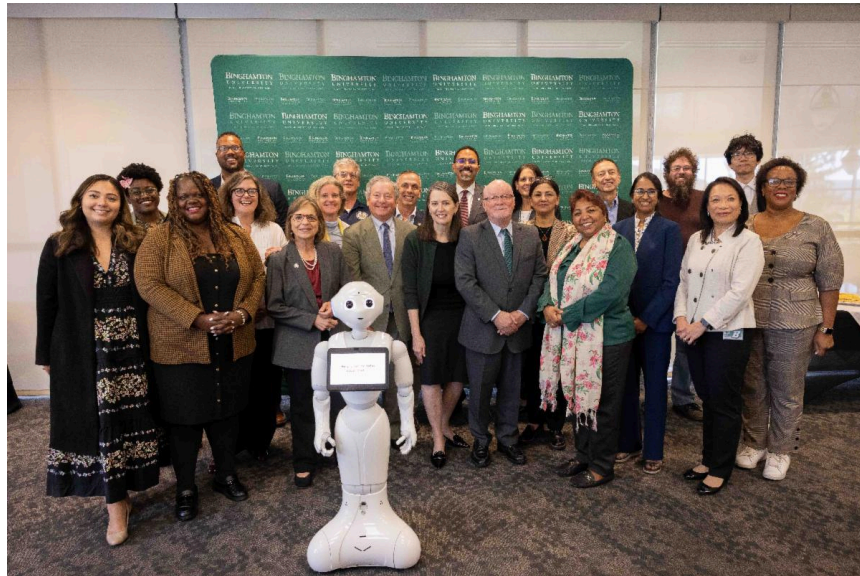


On August 18, Will joined Chancellor King, Executive Vice President of Stony Brook Medicine, Dr. Bill Wertheim; Secretary to the Governor, Karen Keough; Associate Vice President for Government Relations, Carl Mills; Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of Stony Brook Hospital, Carol Gomes;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



On September 9, the OGR team joined Chancellor King on a visit to **SUNY Broome** to discuss SUNY Reconnect, Governor Hochul's free community college initiative for adults ages 25-55 in high demand fields. President Tony D. Hawkins took them on a tour of SUNY Broome's Nursing Lab, Calice Advanced Manufacturing Center, and the Hornet Hope Center, an on-campus food and clothing pantry. They then ended the visit with a roundtable discussion with students, faculty, and State officials on the importance of the SUNY Reconnect program. Thank you to Senator Lea Webb; Assembly Higher Education Chair, Alicia Hyndman; Assembly Science and Technology Chair, Steve Otis; Assemblymember Donna Lupardo; Assemblymember Joe Angelino; Governor Hochul's

Assistant Secretary for Education, Danielle McMullen; Director of the Senate Finance Committee's Lower and Higher Education and Environmental Conservation, Malik Dare; Senate Finance Committee's Budget Analyst, Kat Valz; NYSUT President, Melinda Person; and other staff for attending.



Later that day, the OGR team joined Chancellor King at **Binghamton University** for a panel on Binghamton University's research excellence, followed by a tour of Binghamton's research facilities at the Innovative Technologies Complex. Thank you Senate Internet and Technology Chair, Kristen Gonzalez; Senator Lea Webb; Assembly Higher Education Chair, Alicia Hyndman; Assembly Science and Technology Chair, Steve Otis; Assemblymember Robert Smullen; Assemblymember Donna Lupardo; Assemblymember Chris Eachus; Assemblymember Anna Kelles; Governor Hochul's Assistant Secretary for Education, Danielle McMullen; Director of the Senate Finance Committee's Lower and Higher Education and Environmental Conservation, Malik Dare; Senate Finance Committee's Budget Analyst, Kat Valz; NYSUT President, Melinda Person; and other staff for attending.



On October 27, Will and Maria joined Chancellor King, President Darrell Wheeler, and Higher Education Chair Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman at **SUNY New Paltz**. The Chair toured her alma mater to see the campus and met with students from SUNY New Paltz's ACE program, which provides academic, financial, and personal support to students to stay on track and graduate on time.

Farewell



Since joining SUNY to work as a Student Assistant in the Office of the Board of Trustees in January of 2024, while pursuing her graduate degree in Public Administration at UAlbany, Alice Russo proved herself to be an invaluable asset to SUNY, bringing her excellent skillset to every project she touched. Since joining team OGR in January of 2025, Alice took the lead on creating this newsletter, mastered new software systems allowing us to streamline contact management, revamped the OGR website, and was instrumental in helping the team prepare for the many advocacy events that took place this year. In Alice's own words, her time with OGR reinforced her passion for policy and higher education, and we could not be more thrilled and proud that Alice has joined the New York State Senate as a Budget Analyst for Higher Education with the Finance Committee. Please join us in wishing Alice all the best in her next chapter.



Emily Van De Loo will be departing OGR to begin a new role as Director of Intergovernmental & Community Affairs with the New York State Office of General Services. During her time at SUNY, Emily worked to launch the first editions of this newsletter, supported SUNY's advocacy efforts, and collaborated with SUNY campus staff across the system on various initiatives, including gathering data to create our district impact profiles. Emily was

responsible for maintaining records for SUNY's 60+ College and University Councils and Boards of Trustees, as well as supporting the appointments of new members. Her work over the past year plus contributed to the appointments of over 60 members to councils and boards. We appreciate the impact Emily's contributions have made and wish her continued success in her new role.



Trivia Answer

A **SUNY Cortland** alum and current **SUNY Oneonta** employee donated their tree to the Rockefeller Plaza in 2016!

Read more [here](#).

Keep up with SUNY and the Office of Government Relations

- Take a peek at OGR's website [here](#).
- Want to look back on OGR's archived newsletters? Check out our page [here](#).
- Interested in SUNY research and innovation? Check out our website [here](#).
- Explore other careers at SUNY [here](#).

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