



SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter

Dear Friend,

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

With summer in full swing, SUNY is hitting the road! This month Chancellor King has been traveling across the state as part of his SUNY Reconnect Tour to promote Governor Hochul's initiative to provide free community college for adult learners ages 25-55 without a college degree who pursue an associate's in high demand fields.

In addition to the SUNY Reconnect Tour, SUNY has been active in Washington, D.C., meeting with our congressional delegation and other federal partners to advocate for policies and funding that support our students, further research, and expand access to affordable, high-quality education across the state.

As we look ahead, SUNY remains focused on delivering affordability, excellence, and opportunity for every New Yorker.

Sincerely,

Will Schwartz
Vice Chancellor for Government Relations



Will Schwartz



Maria Volpe-McDermott



Whitney Riggs

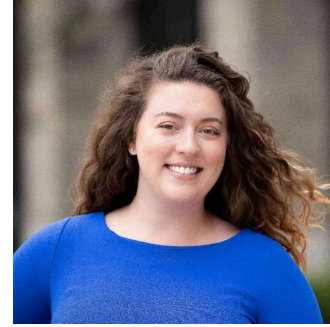
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SUNY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Chancellor King Kicks Off New York's Educational Opportunity Program Summer Orientations with Visit to **FIT**. **Read more** and pictures available **here**.
- Governor Hochul Announces College Financial Aid for More New York Veterans. **Read more**
- Chancellor King Announces Public Listening Sessions on Community College Rule Making Proposal. **Read more**
- Chancellor King Writes an Op-Ed for the USA Today Network, "SUNY Investments in Students Today will Lead to a Stronger New York Tomorrow." **Read more**

- Chancellor King Launches Inaugural Journalism Internship Program for Students Statewide. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Joins Governor Hochul for Announcement of Grand Opening of NSTC EUV Accelerator at NY Creates' **Albany Nanotech Complex**. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces \$20 Million State-of-the-Art Semiconductor Research Facility at **Stony Brook University**. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces \$4 Million Expansion in **Upstate Medical's** Biotech Ventures Fund. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces One-Stop-Shop for Military, Veterans, and Family Members Interested in SUNY. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King Announce the Appointment of Dr. Michael Steiper as the Seventh President of **Purchase College**. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Board of Trustees Appoints Valerie Dent as Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces the Fourth Class of SUNY/OMH Scholarship Program Recipients to Support Mental Health Professionals. [Read more](#)

TRIVIA

How many museums and galleries are there in the SUNY System? Scroll to the bottom to find out!

27

35

39

41

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:

- **SUNY Orange** is leading the way in AI healthcare education. [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo** study finds how harmful RNA clumps form and how to dissolve them. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** researcher explores Circadian rhythms in Alzheimer's. [Read more](#)
- **Binghamton University's** Engineering Center receives \$1 million in state funding. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** becomes global hub for semiconductor research with new technology center. [Read more](#)
- **Binghamton University** researchers develop process to turn food waste into biodegradable plastic. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY ESF** joins forces with GS Power Partners to cut energy costs through NY-based community solar farm. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Oneonta** students launch their first NASA rocket ship. [Read more](#)
- Three **Binghamton University** Students win 2025 Fulbright awards. [Read more](#)
- **Dutchess Community College** receives T-1 Jayhawk aircraft for its aviation maintenance technician program. [Read more](#)

A LOOK BACK

President's Meeting

SUNY was honored to welcome Matt Howard, Deputy Director of the New York State Division of the Budget, as a guest speaker at our Presidents Retreat. During the session, Matt provided valuable insight into the current state fiscal outlook in light of recent federal actions. Thank you, Matt, for an engaging and informative presentation.



SUNY in D.C.

On July 22, Chancellor King joined Will Schwartz and Whitney Riggs on Capitol Hill for meetings with Congressional leaders and members of the New York Congressional Delegation to underscore SUNY's federal priorities, including robust funding for scientific research, Pell grants, and other student aid programs. The Chancellor met with House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Congressman Grace Meng, Congressman Nicole Malliotakis, Congressman Nick Langworthy, Congressman Nick LaLota, and Congressman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee. These engagements are critical to keeping SUNY's priorities front and center as Congress negotiates funding for Fiscal Year 2026.









Campus Visits

The OGR team joined Chancellor King on his visits to campuses across New York State. This month, we had the pleasure of visiting **SUNY Upstate Medical University, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Schenectady County Community College, SUNY Canton, and Jefferson Community College.**

On July 16, Will Schwartz and Maria Volpe-McDermott joined Chancellor King at **Upstate Medical University** to meet students participating in Upstate's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program, including students visiting from the University of Puerto Rico. Chancellor King and Will were also honored to attend the Upstate Medical University Council's Award for Exemplary Service Ceremony. Congratulations to Representative John Mannion, Senator Rachel May, Senator Joe Griffo, Senator Chris Ryan, Assemblymember Bill Magnarelli, Assemblymember Al Stirpe, Assemblymember Pam Hunter, Assemblymember Marianne Buttenschon, Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay, Assemblymember John Lemondes, and Chancellor King for being honored for their unwavering support and dedication to Upstate Medical.





Maria then joined Chancellor King at **Tompkins-Cortland Community College** (TC3) as part of his SUNY Reconnect tour for a tour to see TC3's working farm and participate in a panel discussion. Chancellor King, TC3's President Amy Kremenek, Senator Lea Webb, staff from Assemblymember Anna Kelles's office, New York State United Teachers' President Melinda Person, Tompkins County's Administrator Korsah Akumfi, Cortland County's Acting Administrator and Chairman of the County Legislature Kevin Fitch, and students spoke about the importance of SUNY Reconnect giving adults a chance to jump start careers, as well as the importance of internships. TC3's farm in Dryden, NY provides students in the Sustainable Farming and Food Systems degree program hands-on experience, as well as fresh produce for the local community. An eligible program under SUNY Reconnect, this program teaches students crop management, seed starting, and post-harvest handling.

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



On July 17, Will Schwartz and Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development & Upward Mobility Chris White joined Chancellor King at **Schenectady County Community College** on the third stop of his SUNY Reconnect Tour for a tour and panel discussion. Chancellor King, SUNY Schenectady President Steady Moono, Senator Pat Fahy, Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara, Schenectady County Legislature Chairman Gary Hughes, and NYSUT President Melinda Person toured SUNY Schenectady's new air traffic control center and their e-sports arena to learn about their Programming for Game Design degree program. SUNY Schenectady is one of only 6 colleges in the nation with Enhanced Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI) status from the Federal Aviation Administration.

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



On July 18, Sydney Renwick; Chancellor King; New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian (NYS BPHA) Legislative Caucus Chair Assemblymember Michaelle Solages; NYS BPHA Legislative Caucus Executive Director Joshua Joseph; and the Director of Government Relations of the Adirondack Council Andrew Williams joined **SUNY ESF's Timbuctoo Climate Science and Careers Summer Institute Brooklyn** program's cohort on their final day working alongside the Billion Oyster Project to restore parts of the Brooklyn coastline. Through a two-week immersive summer program that kicks off at Medgar Evers College, SUNY ESF's Timbuctoo Institute exposes high school students to environmental science and social justice topics.

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

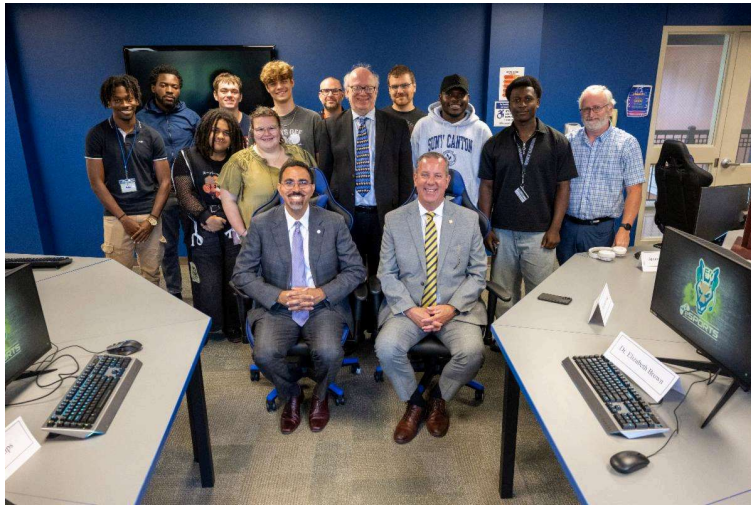
More photos available [here](#).



On July 21, Emily Van De Loo took a trip to the North Country. At **SUNY Canton**, Chancellor King, Assemblymember Scott Gray, and President Zvi Szafran sat down with faculty and staff to discuss the innovative ways in which SUNY Canton is prioritizing the needs of neurodiverse students. Next up was a conversation with students participating in the summer Empire State Service Corps, who shared how they have spent their service hours improving communities across the North Country, from organizing clothing drives to improving greenhouses to restoring cemeteries. Finally, the group toured the state-of-the-art residential Esports wing.

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

More photos available [here](#).



Later that day, Chancellor King was joined by Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblymember Robert Smullen, Assemblymember Scott Gray, and Mark Brouillette, representing Senator Stec's office, for the next stop of the SUNY Reconnect Tour at **Jefferson Community College**. President Dan Dupee led the group on a tour, starting with the Nursing Lab. The Nursing A.S. program is an eligible program under SUNY Reconnect. Next was a visit to the Veterans Lounge followed by a roundtable discussion. Thanks to SUNY Reconnect, the Veterans Tuition Award (VTA) Program expansion, and their partnership with Fort Drum, Jefferson Community College is well positioned to be a key player for veterans who are looking to transition back into civilian life and into the workforce.

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

Find out more about the VTA Program [here](#).



On July 23, Chancellor King joined Governor Kathy Hochul at **Suffolk County Community College** for the fifth stop on the SUNY Reconnect Tour. Click [here](#) to watch Governor Hochul and Chancellor King discuss SUNY Reconnect with students.

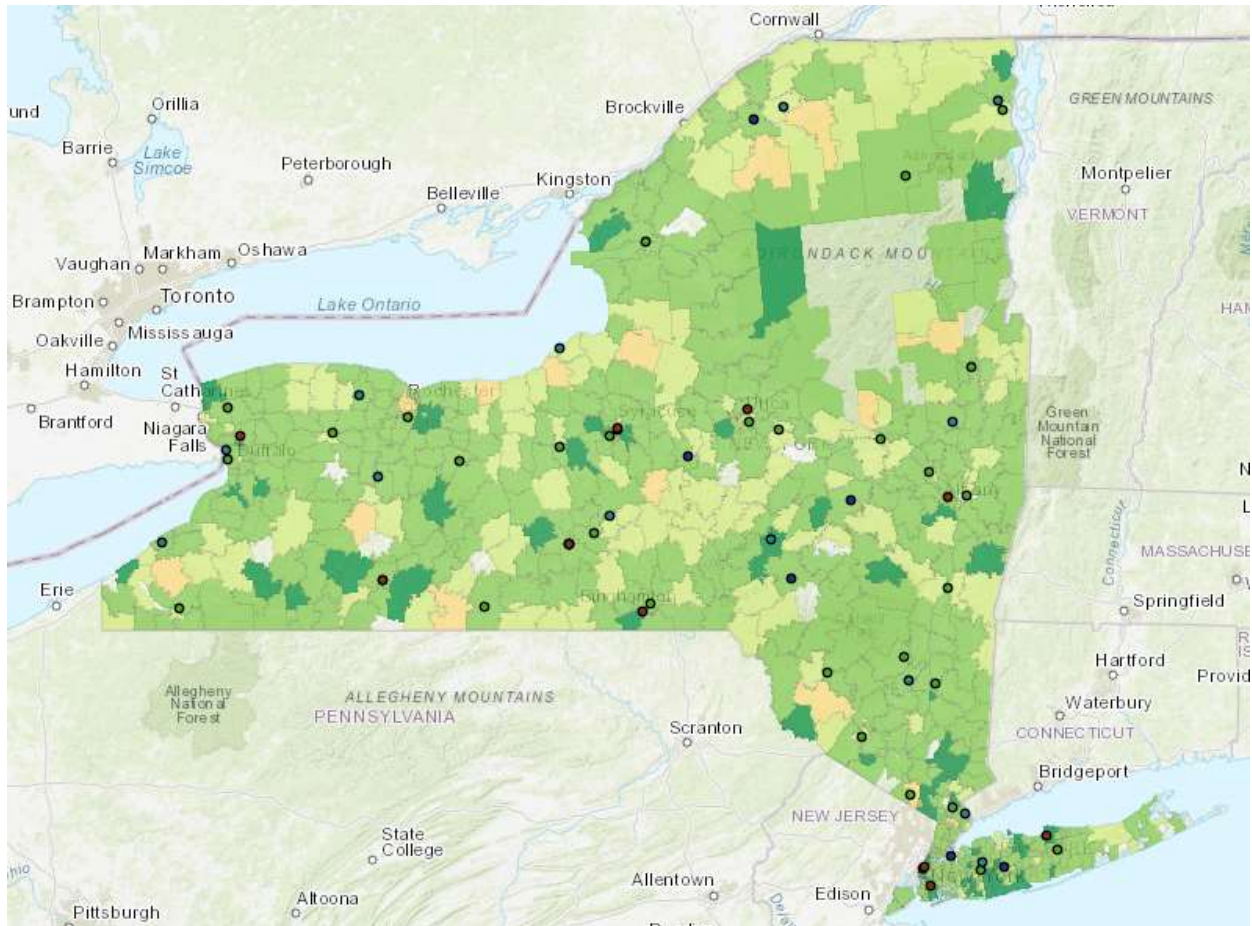


FAFSA Update

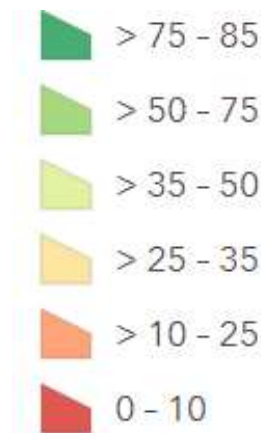
Please encourage your local school districts to ensure that students and their families are completing the FAFSA in order to be eligible for financial aid!

Through July 18, 2025, the data reflects that:

- **62.1% of the estimated class of 2025 in New York has completed a FAFSA.**
- There have been **131,871 submissions** in New York (an increase of 16,135 compared to this time last year).
- There are 23 districts with FAFSA submission rates above 80%.
- Nationally, 55.5% of the estimated class of 2025 have submitted a FAFSA. New York is in 6th place in the country. (New Jersey is #1 at 66.9%)
- 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

*There are **39** museums and galleries across SUNY's 64 campuses in all regions of New York State!*

Our campuses showcase everything from ancient global artifacts to contemporary pieces. Explore rotating exhibits, rare collections, and engaging events like artist talks, films and interactive programs, all of which are open

to the public. Come see what makes SUNY's art spaces truly one of a kind [here](#).

Community College Rulemaking Proposal Listening Sessions

Chancellor King announced a series of public listening sessions on the proposed rule to ensure continued excellent leadership at New York's community colleges. There have already been two listening sessions: one held at Onondaga Community College on July 17 and a virtual listening session on July 29. Join us at one of the remaining dates:

- Erie Community College on Tuesday, August 12, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the College Senate Room, located in B-Building, Room B-207.
- Farmingdale State College on Wednesday, August 13, from 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM in the Campus Center Ballroom A and Meeting Room A.
- Virtual listening session on Monday, August 18, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

For more information, [click here](#).
To view press release, [click 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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