



SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter

March 2025

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the March edition of the SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter!

Throughout this month, our team has been working diligently to ensure that the priorities of SUNY students, faculty, and staff are clearly represented in conversations happening in Albany and Washington, D.C. These ongoing efforts are crucial as we continue to advocate for the resources needed to strengthen our campuses and communities.

The State Legislature has released their one-house budget resolutions, and we are thankful that they are aligned with Governor Hochul's vision to continue an historic wave of support for SUNY and our campuses that has been seen in the last few enacted state budgets.

We deeply appreciate the ongoing support of legislators and SUNY stakeholders. Thanks to the dedication of Governor Hochul, the State Legislature, and the members of New York's Congressional Delegation, we can continue this important work for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Will Schwartz
Vice Chancellor for Government Relations

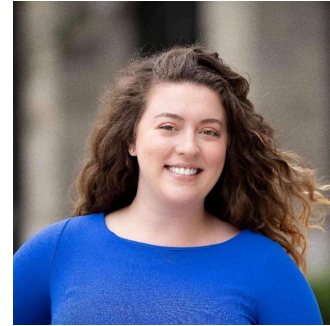


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SUNY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- SUNY honors the memory and legacy of Dr. Hazel Dukes. [Read more](#)
- SUNY celebrates Women's History Month and establishes the Dr. Hazel Dukes Fellowship for the Advancement of Civil Rights. [Read more](#)
- SUNY celebrates the achievements of 50 EOP students honored with the Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King announces the expansion of the SUNY and City Year Partnership to advance service and educational opportunities for college students across New York State. [Read more](#)

- The SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King announce the appointment of Anastasia L. Urtz, J.D. as the eighth President of SUNY Adirondack. [Read more](#)

LOOKING BACK ON MARCH

Empire State Service Corps Summit

On March 1, we celebrated the first cohort of the SUNY Empire State Service Corps! Hearing the inspiring stories of the corps members, we are reminded that public service is the backbone of our democracy. Programs like the Empire State Service Corps provide valuable paid opportunities for students to gain experience.

A special thank you to Congressman John Mannion and Senator Chris Ryan for joining Chancellor King in honoring these hardworking students. As proud native Central New Yorkers, Congressman John Mannion and Senator Chris Ryan continue to represent the Syracuse area with dedication and support for our future leaders.





Legislative Meetings

As we move through this important time of year in Albany, SUNY is thankful for the continued partnership with our colleagues in the New York State Legislature. We look forward to working together to ensure the success of public higher education in New York. Our Office of Government Relations team works closely with the many subject matter experts we have at SUNY System, such as Dr. Lauren Rodriguez, Director of Resources for Students with Disabilities, who joined us for a meeting with Assemblymember Judy Griffin to discuss how SUNY has invested resources to provide more supports for students with disabilities.

In addition, the team met with Assemblymember Billy Jones, who represents SUNY Plattsburgh, Clinton Community College, and North Country Community College (Main Campus and Malone Campus).



Health Committee Reception

Chancellor King hosted members of the Senate and Assembly Health Committees, along with campus presidents and representatives, at the Chancellor's residence to discuss the priorities of our health systems

alongside Senior Vice Chancellor for Health and Hospital Affairs, Val Grey. A special thanks to Senate Health Chair Gustavo Rivera for his leadership and Assembly Health Chair Amy Paulin for her remarks on the crucial need for funding for these institutions. We are grateful to all who attended for their ongoing support of SUNY's health and hospital success.



SOMOS: Advancing Access, Equity, and Opportunity Panel

On March 8, Chancellor King served as a panelist on Empire State University and SUNY's sponsored SOMOS panel *Advancing Access, Equity, and Opportunity: Launching SUNY's First Spanish-Language Degree Program*. The Chancellor was joined by Assemblymember Jonathan Rivera, Empire State University President Dr. Lisa Vollendorf, and Director of Spanish Language Programs Dr. Silvia Mejia to discuss this innovative degree program that strengthens the diversity of SUNY's student body and positions students for a global economy and upward mobility.





SOMOS: Women's Brunch

On International Women's Day, Chancellor King joined trailblazing Latinas to hear how they are driving change in the technology sector and making critical improvements that ensure equity and ethical standards, and drive inclusivity in an everchanging industry.



SOMOS: CUNY/SUNY Luncheon & Mock Session

Chancellor King joined CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez to celebrate the 27th Annual CUNY/SUNY Model Luncheon and Mock Session. The event was filled with notable elected leaders from across the state, including New York State Attorney General Letitia James, State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Speaker Carl Heastie, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Assemblymember Karines Reyes, and Senator Gustavo Rivera. Students from SUNY Cortland, SUNY Delhi, SUNY Morrisville, Buffalo State University, SUNY Oneonta, and University at Albany participated in the mock session.





SOMOS: Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute Mock Session

On March 9, Chancellor King was joined by over 100 high school juniors and seniors from across the state participating in the Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute mock session. Commissioner of Education Betty Rosa, Congressman Paul Tonko, Speaker Carl Heastie, Assembly Deputy Leader Phil Ramos, Puerto Rican/Hispanic Taskforce Chair Karines Reyes, and Assemblymember Gabriella Romero all joined the Chancellor to welcome the students to the Assembly Chamber.



Norman R. McConney, Jr. Awards for EOP Student Excellence Ceremony

The SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King honored 50 students from SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) with the Norman R.

McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence. This ceremony served as an important reminder of the transformative impact the EOP program has on students' lives. Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes was recognized as this year's honorary Norman R. McConney Jr. Award Winner.



Women's History Month Reception

Chancellor King welcomed New York State leaders into his home for a celebration of Women's History Month. We are grateful to all who attended and thank Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes and Senate Higher Education Committee Chair Toby Ann Stavisky for their powerful words on women's strength and leadership. A special thank you to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York's first female Governor, for gifting us a Women's History Month proclamation, and to Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to Governor Kathy Hochul, for her leadership. The commitment to advancing women empowerment and opportunities felt in the room that night was truly inspiring.





Meeting with Comptroller Tom DiNapoli

On March 11, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations Will Schwartz joined other leaders in the field of higher education to meet with Comptroller Tom DiNapoli to discuss looming budget decisions in Albany and in Washington, D.C. and how they will both impact higher education in New York State. SUNY is grateful to Comptroller DiNapoli and his team for continuing to emphasize the importance of the impact that institutions of higher education make across the state.



Small Business Development Center Day

In honor of America's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Day, the NY SBDC team, led by State Director Sonya Smith, organized an advocacy day at the Capitol to highlight our SBDCs, many of which are housed at SUNY campuses, and their contributions to New York's economy. We thank Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development, and Small Business Chair Sean Ryan, Senator Peter Oberacker, Assembly Economic Development Committee Chair Al Stirpe, Assembly Labor Committee Chair Harry Bronson, Assembly Small Business Committee Chair Marianne Buttenschon, and Assemblymember Billy Jones for their support. We congratulate all these legislative champions on their recognition by the NY SBDC team.

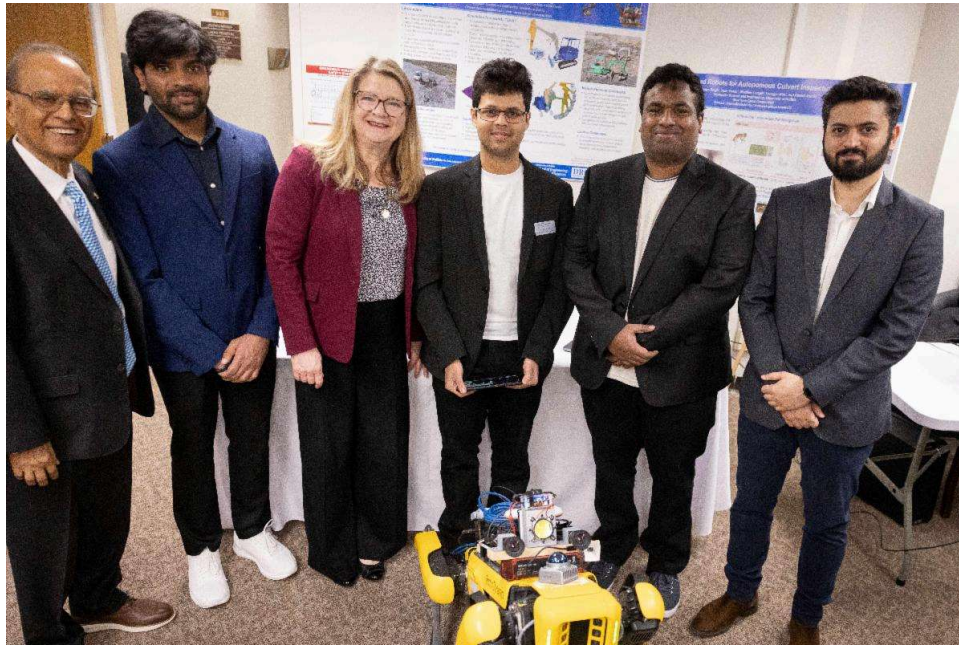


SUNY Research Expo

On March 18, the Office of Government Relations, 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

SUNY leadership, namely Ram Ramasubramanian, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Provost, and President of the SUNY Research Foundation, as well as Shadi Sandvik, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Economic Development, for joining us for this incredible event! We sincerely appreciate 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.





SUNY University Center Day at the Capitol

Following the SUNY Research Expo, we had a busy day of advocacy at the Capitol. We were joined by Binghamton University President Harvey Stenger, Stony Brook University Interim President Richard McCormick, University at Albany President Havidán Rodríguez, University at Buffalo President Satish K. Tripathi, and our campus Government Relations colleagues to talk all things SUNY University Centers.



Looking Forward to April

- The 12th annual **SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference** will be hosted at **Binghamton University** on **Monday, April 28**. Registration is open until April 4. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Brockport's **Washington Internship Program** Fall & Spring semester application deadline is April 1. This is an amazing opportunity for students to build professional networks and develop real-world skills in the nation's capital. [Read more](#)

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