



SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the April edition of the SUNY Office of Government Relations newsletter!

April marked Financial Aid Awareness Month and SUNY partnered with HESC, CUNY, and Assemblymember Gabriella Romero for a panel at the SOMOS Albany Conference: “Del Momento al Movimiento - Lead, Unite, Transform” to stress the importance of students completing the FASFA to access financial aid. We also joined SUNY Chancellor King on several campus visits alongside elected officials and community leaders, showcasing how our campuses are expanding opportunities for New Yorkers.

As we await the enactment of the FY26-27 state budget and continue strengthening our connections with state leaders and federal partners, the SUNY team’s focus remains steady. We will continue highlighting the work of SUNY’s students, faculty, and staff and ensuring our campuses have the resources they need to serve every New Yorker.

Sincerely,

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Vice Chancellor for Government Relations



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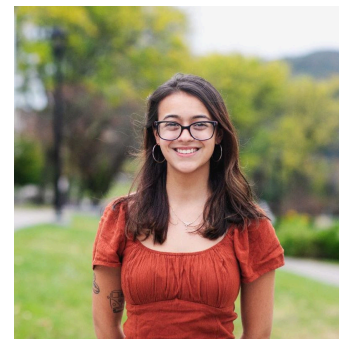
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Julia Rios
OGR Graduate Fellow

🧠 **Trivia** 🧠

Which SUNY alum hip-hop artist released the iconic "SUNY Anthem" in 2013?

A. Rocky

W. Schwa

B. Martin

J. Cole

LOOKING BACK: MONTHLY RECAP

SUNY News Highlights

- Chancellor King visits **SUNY Potsdam** to highlight its expanded basic needs supports for students. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King visits **North Country Community College** to highlight the eligible nursing, radiologic technology, environmental science, and addiction counseling degree pathways through the SUNY Reconnect program. [Read more](#)
- Red, the mascot of **SUNY Oneonta**, has won SUNY's "Mascot Madness" tournament for the second time in its history. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY double alum and Nobel Laureate Omar Yaghi** returns to the Capital Region to inspire the next generation of scientists. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King and SUNY campus professionals convened at SUNY's inaugural **Internship Summit**. [Read more](#)
- Campuses across the SUNY system observed **Earth Day** and promoted sustainability practices aligned with SUNY's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan. [Read more](#)
- Dr. Andrea Goldsmith is officially inaugurated as the **State University of New York at Stony Brook's** seventh president. [Read more](#)
- This year's Dr. Virginia Radley SUNY Fellowship Program winner is Dr. Jasmin Thomas of **SUNY Downstate Health Services University**, whose research explores the history and legacy of Black nurses of Seaview Hospital. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King announces expansion of the **School of Nursing at SUNY Brockport** during campus visit. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King launches the **Community College Honors Transfer Pathway Program** at **SUNY Geneseo**. [Read more](#)
- 205 students received the **Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence** (CASE), which is the highest honor for academic excellence and leadership. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King announces expansion of **SUNY's Higher Education in Prison** program. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King announce the appointment of Dr. Nicole Reaves as the next president of **SUNY Schenectady County Community College**. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King announce the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Burris as the next president of **SUNY Buffalo State University**. [Read more](#)

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 world. Here are a few recent highlights:

- **SUNY Orange** examines how U.S. court cases and public policies have influenced college access for undocumented students. [Read more](#)
- Researchers at the **State University of New York at Buffalo** evaluate the effect of microplastics on immune health. [Read more](#)

- A new study from the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the **State University of New York at Albany** finds that registered nurse graduation in New York State remains steady while systemic barriers continue to constrain future workforce growth. [Read more](#)
- A novel, non-opioid pain therapy discovered at the **State University of New York at Stony Brook** advances with \$11 million in private investment. [Read more](#)
- A leading expert in antibody-drug-conjugate technology at the **State University of New York at Binghamton** has been awarded a NIH grant to support oncology research. [Read more](#)

Celebrating our Administrative Professionals!

April 22 was Administrative Professionals Day so we would like to give a shout out to then incredible Julie Harris and Chelsea Jones for all of the hard work they do to keep our office running!



Congratulations Sydney!

Please join us in congratulating Sydney on her recognition in City & State's 2026 edition of Who's Who in Government Relations! City & State's Who's Who in Government Relations sheds light on some of the most influential figures in the field and we couldn't think of anyone more deserving of this honor. Congratulations Sydney!

Renwick, Sydney
Assistant Director of Government Relations, SUNY



Sydney Renwick / Valera Carines

Rep. George Latimer Honors SUNY Purchase

On April 10, Congressman George Latimer recognized SUNY Purchase as a nationally ranked institution and an important cultural hub for students and community members in his district. We appreciate Representative Latimer for being a SUNY champion and for his efforts to sustain access to high-quality, affordable education for all. Watch the full speech [here](#).



SOMOS: "Completing the FASFA/DREAM ACT: As a Key to Unlocking Student Support" Panel

On April 18, Assemblymember Gabriella Romero expertly led an engaging panel, featuring New York Higher Education Services Corporation Acting President Doris B. González, CUNY's Deputy Director & Compliance Officer for Student Financial Assistance Lucy-Rosalie McIntyre, SUNY's Assistant Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation & Deputy Chief of Staff Juliana Hernandez-Commisso, and State University of New York at Albany student and Empire State Service Corps member- Jumana Ibrahim. The panel highlighted the need to provide timely information to students and families, the importance of peer-to-peer assistance, and how completing the FAFSA or DREAM Act application helps connect students to SUNY's affordable excellence and critical wrap-around services.



SOMOS: PR/HYLI Mock Session

On April 19, Sydney and Aria attended as Chancellor King spoke to over 150 high school students from across the state participating in the Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute mock session. Congressman Paul Tonko, Speaker Carl Heastie, Assemblymember Phil Ramos, and New York State Education Department Commissioner Betty

Rosa all joined the Chancellor to welcome the students to the Assembly Chamber.



SUNY Westchester Community College and SUNY Purchase Guaranteed Pathway Agreement

On March 27, Sydney joined Chancellor King at SUNY Westchester Community College to announce the new Guaranteed Pathway Agreement, ensuring that SUNY Westchester Community College students in eligible associate degree programs can automatically transfer to SUNY Purchase. Senator Shelley Mayer and Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky joined SUNY Purchase College President Michael Steiper and SUNY Westchester Community College President Belinda Miles during this important announcement. [Learn more here.](#)



SUNY Maritime College Campus Visit

On March 27, Sydney and Chancellor King continued to SUNY Maritime College, where they toured the Empire State VII training ship and discussed the Pay It Forward Fund with President John Okon. With support from

Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblymember Michael Benedetto, and State Senator Nathalia Fernandez, the fund has helped more than 80 students afford the Summer Sea Term requirement. Thank you to Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and New York City Council Member Shirley Aldebol for joining. [Learn more here](#).



Broadview at SUNY Purchase Campus Visit



On April 20, Will joined Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger and SUNY Ulster President Alison Buckley at the Broadview Senior Living residence on SUNY Purchase's campus, a residential learning community for adults 62 years and older that aims to bridge the gap between generations through intergenerational learning, projects, and activities. Thank you to SUNY Purchase President Michael Steiper (not pictured) and his team for hosting and dropping by!

SUNY Geneseo Campus Visit

On April 23, Maria and Chancellor King stopped by SUNY Geneseo and joined SUNY Trustee Bob Duffy, President Melinda Treadwell, Senator Pamela Helming, Assemblymember Andrea Bailey, and Kodak Executive Chairman and CEO Jim Continenza for a ribbon-cutting of the Kodak Advanced Electrophysiology Lab inside Geneseo's Integrated Science Center. SUNY Geneseo has partnered with Eastman Kodak to advance life sciences and pharmaceutical research and strengthen New York's biotechnology workforce. The lab will provide students with hands on learning opportunities, as well as internal and external R&D teams who will use the facility's cutting-edge equipment to support neuroscience research and pharmaceutical testing. [Learn more here](#).



Finger Lakes Community College Campus Visit

On April 23, Chancellor King and Maria visited Finger Lakes Community College's Victor campus as part of the Chancellor's SUNY Reconnect tour. Chancellor King joined President Robert Nye, Senator Pam Helming, and Assemblymember Andrea Bailey for a tour of their eligible technology degree programs and spoke with students and faculty about the importance of the program. [Learn more here.](#)



Cayuga Community College Campus Visit

On April 24, Maria joined Chancellor King for another stop on his SUNY Reconnect tour. Chancellor King joined President Brian Durant for a discussion with students and faculty on Cayuga Community College's health sciences and nursing programs. Thank you to Senator Rachel May for attending. [Learn more here.](#)



SUNY Upstate Medical University Campus Visit

On April 24, Chancellor King, SUNY Trustee Eric Corngold, President Mantosh Dewan, and Maria stopped at SUNY Upstate to speak with students participating at the annual SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference. Chancellor King talked with students about their research, highlighting the impact of research and innovation across SUNY campuses. Chancellor King also visited with Congressman John Mannion, a SUNY alum and champion of SUNY. [Learn more here.](#)



SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) Campus Visit

On April 24, Maria joined Chancellor King, SUNY Trustee Eric Corngold, President Joanie Mahoney, and Assemblymember Al Stirpe at SUNY ESF's Lafayette Road Experiment Station to tour the American chestnut orchard and announce a \$5 million renovation of the site's greenhouse and research labs. The station is used extensively for teaching and research and is part of the American Chestnut Research & Restoration Project at SUNY ESF to grow blight-tolerant American chestnuts with the goal of restoring them to their previous forest ecosystems. [Learn more here.](#)



Assembly Higher Education Chair Alicia Hyndman Visits Monroe Community College

On April 24, Assembly Higher Education Committee Chair Alicia Hyndman visited Monroe Community College (MCC). She met with President DeAnna Burt-Nanna and toured the Sydor Optics Advanced Technology Center. Thanks to investment from the State Legislature, MCC's Optics Center will open a state-of-the-art learning facility by Fall 2026 to support students in the nation's first associate degree Optical Systems Technology program offered by a community college.



Dutchess Community College Campus Visit

On April 24, Will visited Dutchess Community College (DCC) and met with Michael Roe, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management; Susan Rogers, Chief of Staff & Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness; Kaina Rivera, Director of ASAP; and Steven Posada, Director of EOP to learn more about their program offerings. He toured several facilities, focusing on DCC's high-demand programs, such as aviation and HVAC. Will also attended the NYCCT Spring Convening, which brings



together trustees from across SUNY's 30 community colleges.



🧠 Trivia Answer 🧠

Brendan Martin (aka B. Martin) is a State University of New York at Albany graduate who debuted his track "SUNY Anthem" at the 2013 State of the University Address. Read more [here](#).

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNY Panel on AI for the Public Good at the NYS AAPI Summit (May 8, 2026)

Join us in Meeting Room 2 of the Empire State Plaza at 11:30am for an engaging SUNY-led panel on AI for the Public Good. This panel will be moderated by Assemblymember Nily Rozic and will feature several experts from our university centers.

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