



SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter

Dear Friend,

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

Governor Hochul announced **enrollment gains** across the State University of New York for the third consecutive year. The ongoing growth highlights successful results from Governor Hochul's commitment to expand access to higher education, and support for programs like SUNY Reconnect and ASAP|ACE, the nation's leading college retention and completion initiatives. Since the launch of SUNY Reconnect in Fall 2025, more than 5,600 New Yorkers have enrolled in the program, saving, on average, approximately \$2,000 per year.

November also offers an opportunity to honor those who serve and their families and to reflect on SUNY's ongoing commitment to supporting every member of our campus communities.

On Veteran's Day, and throughout the year, SUNY proudly recognizes the thousands of student veterans, active-duty service members, and military-connected families across our 64 campuses. In honor of Veterans' Day, SUNY is now offering the SUNY Military Tuition Rate Program, to ensure higher education access is affordable for all active-duty service members.

In addition, November highlights SUNY's strong commitment to addressing food insecurity among students. SUNY continues to expand resources to ensure every student has access to healthy meals while pursuing their education at any of our 64 campuses.

Our team is hiring. We kindly ask you share the paid internship [posting](#) as well as the administrative assistant [posting](#) with anyone you know who may be interested.

As we look ahead to the end of the fall semester and the upcoming season of gratitude, we extend our appreciation to all who contribute to SUNY's mission, including Governor Kathy Hochul, the State Legislature, our New York Congressional Delegation, and more.

Sincerely,

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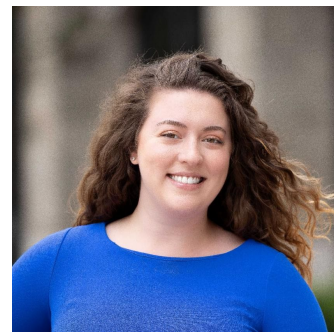
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SUNY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Governor Hochul Announces Enrollment Gains at The State University of New York for Third Consecutive Year. [Read more](#)
- How Service Programs, Like the Empire State Service Corps, Can De-Polarize America. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Celebrates New York State Joining the Center for State Service Innovation. [Read more](#)
- University at Albany to Buy Former Saint Rose Student Housing. [Read more](#)
- As GOP Shutdown Continues and New Yorkers' Food Access is Under Threat, Governor Hochul Urges Day of Hunger Action for All Empire State Service Corps Students. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces \$50 Million Capital Investment to Expand State University of New York at Albany's RNA Institute. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Second Cohort of SUNY Nursing Simulation Fellows. [Read more](#)
- Check out Senator Pat Fahy's Podcast Episode with SUNY Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges Valerie Dent: NY's Free Community College Program. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces New SUNY Military Tuition Rate for Active Service Members. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces \$550,000 Emergency Assistance for SUNY Community College Food Pantries to Combat Ongoing Food Insecurity Crisis. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Student Emergency Aid Expansion Through Foundation Grant. [Read more](#)
- Board of Trustees and Chancellor King Announce Appointment of Dr. Terence L. Finley as the Eighth President of Corning Community College. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Second Year of Internship Exchange Program with University of Puerto Rico and Conservation Organization Para La Naturaleza. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Financial Support and Technical Assistance to Strengthen Retention and Completion Rates Through SUNY's Academic Momentum Campaign. [Read more](#)
- What Everyone Is Saying: Strengthening Retention and Completion Rates Through SUNY's Academic Momentum Campaign. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Student Services Mini-Grant Awards to Strengthen Student Success Across SUNY Educational Opportunity Centers. [Read more](#)

TRIVIA

Governor Hochul announced **enrollment gains** across the State University of New York for the third consecutive year.

When is the last time SUNY had three consecutive years of enrollment gains across all sectors?

2000-2003

1996-1999

2007-2009

2013-2016

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:

- **University at Buffalo** receives grants to support \$2.75 million effort to develop advanced recycling technologies. [Read more](#)
- **Stony Brook University**-BNL Partnership showcased for U.S. Energy Secretary. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Upstate Medical University** researcher awarded \$3.1 million National Institutes of Health grant to uncover how amyloid diseases begin. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Broome's** Hornet Hope Center awarded \$15,000 to help with food insecurity. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** receives gift to advance scientific research on unidentified aerial phenomena. [Read more](#)
- **Binghamton University** researchers redefine the future of bioelectronics with 'living metal.' [Read more](#)
- **Farmingdale State College** students study gene mutations at DNA Repair Lab. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** researcher developing radio frequency interference solutions for U.S. weather satellites. [Read more](#)
- **Stony Brook University** researchers find fossil discovery that rewrites the story of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University** charts a responsible path for AI in medicine. [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo** launches new quantum institute. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Oswego** student explores student perspectives on AI use. [Read more](#)
- **Binghamton University** researchers receive National Science Foundation

- award to study Antarctic ice growth in warming climates. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Empire** professor leads the way in AI literacy. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** researchers reveal kindergarten as critical point for reading difficulty disparities. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY New Paltz** researcher receives \$250,000 National Science Foundation grant. [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo** study tracks evolution of human saliva back to primates. [Read more](#)
- **Stony Brook University** analysis of new anti-parasite drug may help advance treatments. [Read more](#)

A LOOK BACK

SOMOS Conference

From November 5 through 9, Will, Chancellor King, members of the Hispanic Leadership Institute, and campus leadership from SUNY ESF and SUNY Old Westbury attended the 2025 SOMOS Conference, “El Momento es Nuestro: Rise, Build, Reimagine.” SUNY participated in several events including the “Juntos Nos Levantamos” workshop, “How Latinos Rise: Reimagining Leadership and Building Representation” workshop, and JetBlue’s Day of Service with SUNY’s Empire State Service Corps. However, the greatest honor of the 2025 SOMOS Conference was the New York State Assembly and Senate Puerto Rican / Hispanic Task Force Chair Assemblymember Karines Reyes’s recognition of Zulaika Rodriguez’s work as the Executive Director of SUNY’s Hispanic Leadership Institute with Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Carl Heastie. We look forward to the 2026 SOMOS Albany Conference and continued collaboration.





SUNY Cobleskill Agritech Center

On November 17, Will and Maria joined Chancellor King on a visit to **SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech** for the launch of the SUNY Agritech Center, a part of Chancellor King's 2025 State of the University Policy Agenda to support New York's farm workforce and promote the use of emerging technologies in agriculture.

The group toured the campus's Fish Hatchery, Plant Conservatory & Greenhouses, and USDA Meat Processing Lab. There was also a roundtable discussion with key partners in state government, industry, and SUNY campuses focused on meeting the needs of the agriculture industry in education, workforce development, career awareness, recruitment, research and applied research, entrepreneurship and innovation, and adoption of the next generation of technology.

Thank you to Senate Agriculture Chair Michelle Hinchey, Senator Peter

Oberacker, Senator George Borrello, Assembly Agriculture Chair Donna Lupardo, Assemblymember Chris Tague, Governor Hochul's Mohawk Valley Regional Representative Carli Rightmier, Department of Labor Mohawk Valley Regional Representative Delores Caruso, and Antonia Guiliano, Senior Policy Advisor for Food and Dairy from the Department of Agriculture and Markets for attending and engaging in such an important discussion.

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

See more pictures [here](#).







Campus Visits

The Office of Government Relations team joined Chancellor King on his visits to campuses across New York State. This month, we had the pleasure of visiting SUNY Rockland Community College, SUNY Westchester Community College, SUNY Ulster, SUNY Cobleskill Ag & Tech, Purchase College, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Oneonta, and University at Albany.

On November 3, Sydney joined Chancellor King on his 12th stop of the SUNY Reconnect Tour at **SUNY Rockland Community College**, where they toured the campus's Occupational Therapy Assistant program and visited the campus food pantry to speak with student volunteers.

Thank you to Jay Good Jr., Chair of Rockland County Legislature and Mike Hoblin, Deputy County Executive, for attending!

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

See more pictures [here](#).



On November 3, Will joined Chancellor King on his 13th stop of the SUNY Reconnect Tour at **SUNY Ulster** to meet with students and talk about the campus's Advanced Manufacturing program.

Thank you to Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger for attending!

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

See more pictures [here](#).



On November 13, Will and Board of Trustees Chairman Merryl Tisch joined Assemblymember Amy Paulin for a meet and greet with the newly appointed Purchase College President Michael Steiper.



On November 14, Sydney joined Chancellor King on his 14th stop of his SUNY Reconnect Tour at **SUNY Westchester Community College**, where they toured the nursing program space and visited the campus food pantry. Chancellor King also spoke with students, faculty, and staff about their experiences with SUNY Reconnect.

Thank you to Assemblymember Steve Otis, Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, and Assemblymember Chris Burdick's Chief of Staff Heather Lackey for attending!

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

See more pictures [here](#).



On November 18, Maria visited SUNY Cortland for a roundtable discussion

with Assemblymember Anna Kelles, her Deputy Chief of Staff Lorne Montague, SUNY Cortland President Erik Bitterbaum, and Empire State Service Corps students and program staff from Tompkins Cortland Community College and SUNY Cortland to talk about their experience in the Empire State Service Corps. Launched in 2024, the Empire State Service Corps offers students paid opportunities to engage in 300 hours of public service over the course of the academic year. 500 students throughout 45 SUNY campuses completed over 100,000 service hours in the first year.

Thank you Assemblymember Anna Kelles for attending!



On November 19, Maria visited **SUNY Oneonta** for a roundtable discussion with Senator Peter Oberacker and Empire State Service Corps students and program staff from SUNY Oneonta to talk about their experience in the Empire State Service Corps. SUNY Oneonta has the largest cohort of members with over 60 students participating!

Thank you to Senator Peter Oberacker for attending!

See more pictures [here](#).



On November 21, the Office of Government Relations team visited the University at Albany with members of Senate and Assembly central staff to

learn about the innovative research that is happening on campus. The group toured the New York State Mesonet and State Weather Risk Communication Center and spoke with faculty from The RNA Institute, The AI Institute, and NYS Center for Advanced Technology in Nanomaterials and Nanoelectronics.



Thank you to everyone for joining our campus visits! We appreciate your support and tireless work on behalf of SUNY.

Higher Education in Prison Panel

On November 6, Sydney spoke on the "Building Systemwide Support" panel at the Ascendium's kickoff convening at SUNY System Administration. The event brought together Ascendium's eleven statewide and regional higher education in prison coalition grantees to share goals and work on collaborative leadership. As one of the leading nationwide providers of higher education in prison, SUNY is best positioned to host a forum of this magnitude that included leaders from across the US.



SUNY Research Council

On November 12 and 13, Whitney and Maria travelled to New York City for the SUNY Research Council. This year's theme, "Strategic Partnerships for Innovation: Driving Societal Impact through Academic-Industry Collaboration," focused on the essential role of universities as both creators of and contributors to innovation ecosystems. The program featured dynamic keynote speakers and a panel of leaders from academia, government, and industry exploring how New York can harness its strengths in Quantum Information Science and Technology to advance innovation, workforce development, and economic growth.



Trivia Answer

The last time SUNY had three years of consecutive enrollment gains across all

Looking towards the future

- The Empire State Service Corps 2025-26 applications are open. Check it out [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's research and innovation? Check out our website [here](#).
- Check out SUNY's legislative memos on our website [here](#).
- OGR is looking for a new (PAID) intern! Check out the application [here](#).
- Join the SUNY team! Look for careers at SUNY [here](#).

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