



## SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter

Dear Friend,

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

October marked New York State's College Application Month, a time when students can apply to nearly 130 colleges and institutions across the state for free. Thanks to the leadership of Governor Hochul, high school students were able to waive application fees at SUNY, CUNY, and dozens of private institutions. This initiative helps students and their families save money as they take their first steps towards higher education.

Additionally, the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) applications are both open. These applications are the gateway to crucial federal and state financial aid.

Sincerely,

Will Schwartz  
Vice Chancellor for Government Relations



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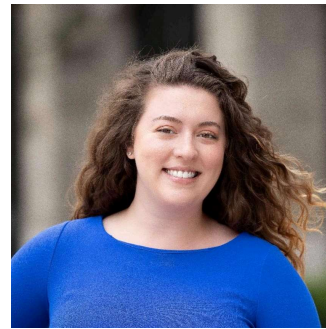
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## SUNY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Governor Hochul Announces the Opening of Key New York State College Aid Applications for the 2026-27 Academic Year. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Free Application Weeks and Fee Waivers for Students Applying to SUNY During College Application Month. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces Free College Application Submissions for Third Consecutive Year as College Application Month Returns. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Third Cohort of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellows. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Celebrates Opening of FIT's New \$188.5 Million Joyce F. Brown Academic Building. [Read more](#)

- Assemblymember Charles Lavine Writes Op-Ed: Tackling Our Affordability Crisis Starts with Education. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces Launch of SUNY Brain Institute with \$10 Million Investment to Fuel SUNY Excellence in Life-Saving Research. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Launches Outdoors for All Program to Promote Inclusivity, Sustainability, Wellness, and Community Development. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Purchase receives \$50 million from Governor Hochul for thermal energy networks. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Celebrates Winners of Annual Radley and Pettigrew Fellowships. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces \$40 Million Investment in New State-of-the-Art Facility for In-Demand Career Training at Hudson Valley Community College. [Read more](#)
- Incoming Binghamton President Anne D'Alleva Visits Campus. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King Announce the Appointment of Jason S. Schupbach as the Next President of FIT. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Celebrates Expansion of ASAP|ACE to More Than 7,000 Students at 34 SUNY Campuses. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Launches SUNY - NY Creates Technology Innovation Institute to Advance Semiconductor Research and Workforce Development. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Recipient of the Second Annual Harvey Milk Scholarship Award for Student Leadership in LGBTQIA+ Community. [Read more](#)

## TRIVIA

October was Free College Application Month. New Yorkers have access to millions in financial aid that often go unused year to year.

*How much aid went unclaimed by New Yorkers last year?*

**\$220 Million**

**\$200 Million**

**\$160 Million**

\$100 Million

## 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:

- **Stony Brook University** researchers discover new fossil of an ancient human relative. [Read more](#)
- **Onondaga Community College** opens a \$15 million cleanroom simulator to train students for jobs at Micron Technology. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** and **Hudson Valley Community College** alum wins Nobel Prize in chemistry. [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo** researchers awarded \$750,000 to advance at-home stroke recovery system. [Read more](#)
- **Stony Brook University** study reveals link between WTC exposures and lung cancer. [Read more](#)
- **Hudson Valley Community College** awarded NSF grant to support biotechnology opportunities, "Raising Awareness and Creating Pathways to the Biotechnology Workforce." [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo's** robot dog sniffs out possible defects in Erie Canal culvert. [Read more](#)
- **Binghamton University** researchers detect cancer with new technology. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** partners with GE Aerospace, NY Creates, MiSci, and local school districts to cultivate 4,000 engineering students. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY ESF** researcher helps discover the reason for the mysterious Seneca Lake Booms. [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo** pharmacy school AI lab evolving to improve drug development. [Read more](#)
- **Binghamton University** researcher helps crack the mystery of how Moai statues were erected on Easter Island. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** researcher examines implications of cheap fentanyl production. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY New Paltz** is awarded \$400,000 EPIIC grant from the National Science Foundation. [Read more](#)
- **Stony Brook University** Cancer Center team receives \$11 million NIH grant to research the role of sphingolipids in cancer. [Read more](#)

- **University at Buffalo's** research on ice sheets is featured in new documentary. [Read more](#)
- **Binghamton University** researchers to test long-term viability of solar panels, funded by EPA grant. [Read more](#)
- **University at Albany** awarded \$6.5 million NIH-grant for muscular dystrophy research center. [Read more](#)

## A LOOK BACK

### Business Council of NYS

On September 18, Will joined Chancellor King and SUNY Trustee Bob Duffy at the Business Council of New York State's Annual Meeting reception and dinner. As a member of the Business Council Board of Directors, Chancellor King had the honor of introducing keynote speaker David Axelrod. The Business Council has been an invaluable partner to SUNY, and together we continue to advance efforts to prepare the workforce of tomorrow and meet the hiring needs of New York's business community.





## **SUNY in NYS Assembly Internships**

On October 3, Will joined the Assembly Higher Education Chair Alicia Hyndman and SUNY Assembly internship alumni for a discussion about the New York State Assembly Intern Program and the incredible pathways it creates for students. Will is an alum of the program and it was inspiring to see strong SUNY representation in the program, with alumni from all four university centers, as well as SUNY Oswego and SUNY New Paltz.





## NYCCAP Federal Update

On October 14, Will gave an update to the New York Community College Association of Presidents. They discussed ways for community colleges to navigate the federal government shutdown and our recent advocacy efforts in Washington D.C.



## **SUNY in D.C.**

On October 16, Whitney met with Representative Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and his staff. The discussion focused on the upcoming FY27 federal appropriations process and ways to elevate SUNY's federal priorities, including opportunities for campus-based projects and systemwide initiatives. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to share SUNY's impact across New York State and explore areas of alignment with the Congressman's legislative and constituent priorities.



## 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 Farmingdale State College, Hudson Valley Community College, SUNY New Paltz, and SUNY Purchase.

On October 8, Sydney joined Chancellor King at **Farmingdale State College** to celebrate the expansion of its ACE program. Chancellor King, SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman Merryl Tisch, Farmingdale's President Dr. Robert Prezant, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success Donna Linderman, and representatives from Senator Monica Martinez's and Assemblymember Kwani O'Pharrow's offices joined Farmingdale leadership and Chuzzy Nwaeme, an ACE student, to celebrate the continued success of SUNY's ASAP/ ACE program, which now includes a total of 7,000 students across 34 campuses. The visit also included a roundtable discussion celebrating the diversity of Farmingdale's Latino community in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and a tour of their Henry Schein Cares Sensory Unity for students on the autism spectrum and Farmingdale's Bioscience Labs.

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

See more pictures [here](#).



On October 17, Emily joined Chancellor King at **Hudson Valley Community College** to celebrate the second class of the Empire State Service Corps. This year, over 500 students from 45 SUNY campuses are participating, dedicating at least 300 hours of paid community service in areas of civic engagement, early childhood education, FAFSA completion, SNAP basic needs, K-12 education, peer mental health, student success coaching, sustainability, and veterans affairs outreach.

Thank you to Assemblymember Gabriella Romero, Assemblymember John McDonald, and Governor Hochul's Assistant Secretary for Education Danielle McMullen for attending!

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

More photos available [here](#).





On October 17, Will joined SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman Merryl Tisch, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblymember Steve Otis, and Assemblymember Chris Burdick for a meet and greet with newly appointed **SUNY Purchase** President Michael Steiper.



On October 27, Will and Maria joined Chancellor King, President Darrell Wheeler, and Assembly Higher Education Chair Alicia Hyndman at **SUNY New Paltz**. The Chair toured her alma mater to see the significant capital funding needs throughout 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.

Thank you, Chair Hyndman, for joining us!

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



## Assembly Higher Education Committee Hearing

On October 21, Will and Maria accompanied Empire State University President Dr. Lisa Vollendorf to an Assembly Higher Education Committee hearing on Virtual Learning. Dr. Vollendorf testified on behalf of SUNY on the important work SUNY and Empire State University are doing to lead New York State in virtual learning. As times continue to change, virtual learning will become more vital in higher education, and Empire State University is taking the lead.

Thank you to Assembly Higher Education Chair Alicia Hyndman, Assembly Higher Education Ranking Member Robert Smullen, Assemblymember Joe Sempolinski, and Assemblymember Brian Miller for your thoughtful and insightful questions and remarks.



### Trivia Answer

*New Yorkers left **\$220 Million** in financial aid unclaimed last year!*

The **federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) application are both open!** 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!

Find resources for applying for financial aid [here](#).

## Looking towards the future

- The Empire State Service Corps 2025-26 applications have opened. Check it out [here](#).

## Keep up with SUNY and the Office of Government Relations

- Take a peek at OGR's website [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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