



## **SUNY Office of Government Relations Newsletter**

Dear Friend,

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

The Fall 2025 semester is in full swing, and it has been a month full of discovery and connection across New York State!

Chancellor King continued his SUNY Reconnect Tour, highlighting Governor Hochul's initiative to provide free community college to adult learners aged 25-55 pursuing associate degrees in high demand fields. Along the way, the Office of Government Relations team joined the Chancellor for his visits across the state, engaging with student leaders, researchers, state officials and more.

SUNY's impact extends far beyond the classroom. This month, SUNY researchers made groundbreaking discoveries, from uncovering deep ocean species to identifying black holes in space. Research of global significance is happening right here in New York!

These opportunities and discoveries are made possible thanks to the steadfast support of Governor Hochul, the State Legislature, and New York's congressional delegation. Together, we are ensuring SUNY continues to deliver on its mission of affordability, excellence, and opportunity to every New Yorker.

Sincerely,

Will Schwartz  
Vice Chancellor for Government Relations



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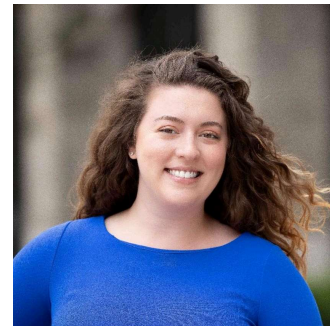
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## **SUNY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS**

- Governor Hochul Announces \$300 Million Investment in SUNY at Stony Brook's Quantum Research and Innovation Hub. [Read more](#)
- Governor Hochul Announces Plan for the \$1 Billion Sustainable Future Program Supporting Climate Action and Jobs. [Read more](#)
- Senate Higher Education Committee Chair Toby Ann Stavisky Writes an Op-Ed, "Turning Experience into Credentials with SUNY and CUNY Reconnect." [Read more](#)
- Statement from Chancellor King and SUNY Board of Trustees on the Anniversary of September 11. [Read more](#)
- Op-Ed: University at Buffalo Professor Writes: Without University Research Many Health Breakthroughs Would Not Be Possible. [Read more](#)
- Statement from Chancellor King and SUNY Board of Trustees on Recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. [Read more](#)
- SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor King Announce the Appointment of Dr. Melinda Treadwell as the 14th President of SUNY Geneseo. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Celebrates Second Cohort of Empire State Service Corps Across 43 SUNY Campuses. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Inaugural Class of SUNY AI for the Public Good Fellows. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Inaugural Sustainability Faculty Fellows During New York Climate Week. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Kicks Off SUNY Climate Research Task Force as Part of New York Climate Week. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Student-Parent Playbook to Support Food Security. [Read more](#)
- Chancellor King Announces Second Cohort of Civil Discourse and Civic Education & Engagement Fellows. [Read more](#)

## TRIVIA

This month has been filled with many incredible scientific discoveries by SUNY institutions, from deep sea to deep space!

*What other scientific discoveries were invented at a SUNY institution?*

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)**

**Bar Code Scanning**

## 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 find hints of potential ancient life on Mars. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Geneseo** researchers discover a new species of deep-sea fish. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Poly** secures a SUNY TAF Grant for cutting-edge wireless communication research. [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo** researchers use AI tool to predict mouth sore infection risk following a stem cell transplant. [Read more](#)
- **Stony Brook University** researchers help explain lightning's mysterious origins. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY ESF** discovers rare bee species at their orchards. [Read more](#)
- **Stony Brook** researchers get best view yet of two merging black holes. [Read more](#)
- **Binghamton University** researchers look at new ways to target autoimmune diseases. [Read more](#)
- **SUNY Niagara** wins \$862K National Science Foundation Grant to expand tech teaching. [Read more](#)
- **University at Buffalo** researchers discover PFAS-eating bacteria. [Read more](#)

## A LOOK BACK

### SUNY in D.C.

On September 3, a NYCCAP delegation including SUNY Community College Presidents Robert Nye, Warren Hilton, Edward Bonahue, and Joe Keegan; SUNY Trustee and Faculty Council of Community Colleges President Candice Vacin; SUNY Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, Valerie Dent; and SUNY Vice Chancellor for Workplace Development, Chris White joined Whitney in Washington for meetings on Capitol Hill. The group met with Sen. Chuck

Schumer, Rep. Nick LaLota, Rep. John Mannion, and Rep. Claudia Tenney. They also met with Senate HELP Majority staff, House Education and Workforce Majority staff, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's staff, and Rep. Pat Ryan's staff. The group stressed the importance of robust funding for Pell, TRIO, Federal Work Study, CCAMPIS, and adult education programs, while also highlighting workforce development and industry partnerships. Each conversation reinforced SUNY's role in driving opportunity, economic growth, and student success across New York State.

## Campus Visits

The Office of Government Relations (OGR) team joined Chancellor King on his visits to campuses across New York State. This month, we had the pleasure of visiting Monroe Community College, SUNY Broome Community College, Binghamton University, SUNY Adirondack Community College, and the University at Albany.

On September 4, Maria joined Chancellor King at **Monroe Community College** for stop number ten on his SUNY Reconnect tour. Chancellor King, NYSERDA President & CEO Doreen Harris, Assemblymember Sarah Clark, and Assemblymember Demond Meeks toured a lab for Monroe's highly renowned Optical Systems Technology program, an eligible associate degree program under the free community college initiative. Monroe Community College is the nation's only community college awarding associate degrees in precision optics. They also participated in an engaging discussion about SUNY Reconnect with students, faculty, staff and President DeAnna Burt-Nanna.

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

On September 9, Will, Maria, and Emily headed to the Southern Tier for a two-part campus visit at **SUNY Broome Community College** and **Binghamton University**.

First stop at **SUNY Broome**, Maria and Emily joined Chancellor King to discuss SUNY Reconnect, Governor Hochul's free community college initiative for adults ages 25-55 in high demand fields. President Tony D. Hawkins took them on a tour of SUNY Broome's Nursing Lab, Calice Advanced Manufacturing Center, and the Hornet Hope Center, an on-campus food and clothing pantry. They ended the visit with a roundtable discussion with

students, faculty, and State officials on the importance of the SUNY Reconnect program.

Thank you to Senator Lea Webb, Assembly Higher Education Chair Alicia Hyndman, Assembly Science and Technology Chair Steve Otis, Assemblymember Donna Lupardo, Assemblymember Joe Angelino; Governor Hochul's Assistant Secretary for Education, Danielle McMullen; Director of the Senate Finance Committee's Lower and Higher Education and Environmental Conservation, Malik Dare; Senate Finance Committee's Budget Analyst, Kat Valz; NYSUT President Melinda Person, and other staff for attending!

For more information see [here](#).

More photos available [here](#).

Then, Will, Maria, and Emily joined Chancellor King at **Binghamton University** for a panel on Binghamton's research excellence, followed by a tour of Binghamton's research facilities at the Innovative Technologies Complex. This complex houses many research facilities including an anechoic chamber, one of the quietest rooms in the world, and Nobel Laureate Stanley Whittingham's research laboratories.

Thank you Senate Internet and Technology Chair Kristen Gonzalez, Senator Lea Webb, Assembly Higher Education Chair Alicia Hyndman, Assembly Science and Technology Chair Steve Otis, Assemblymember Robert Smullen, Assemblymember Donna Lupardo, Assemblymember Chris Eachus, Assemblymember Anna Kelles; Governor Hochul's Assistant Secretary for Education, Danielle McMullen; Director of the Senate Finance Committee's Lower and Higher Education and Environmental Conservation, Malik Dare; Senate Finance Committee's Budget Analyst, Kat Valz; and other staff for attending!

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

More photos available [here](#).

On September 9, a new **Attain Lab at the MLK Center for Nonviolence** was unveiled in the Bronx at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This lab will serve as a vital resource to help Bronx families build a brighter future by providing free technology training, career development, and certification opportunities.

Thank you to the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and Assemblymember Emerita Tores for attending!

For more information on the new attain lab, read [here](#).

For more information on SUNY's attain labs, read [here](#).

On September 18, Will joined Chancellor King at **SUNY Adirondack** for a stop of the SUNY Reconnect Tour. Chancellor King highlighted SUNY Adirondack's new Environmental Science and Health Sciences programs, both are eligible for SUNY Reconnect. He also visited SUNY Adirondack's Mechatronics program, a SUNY Reconnect eligible program that prepares students for technician roles in the manufacturing industry.

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

More photos available [here](#).

On September 18, Will and Emily joined Chancellor King at the first-ever Basic Needs Summit at the **University at Albany**. This event brought together campus representatives, SUNY leadership, national experts, and state officials to discuss policy initiatives and strategies to ensure all students have access to essential resources.

SUNY is deeply committed to meeting students' basic needs. Every SUNY campus has a food pantry, 47 campuses provide childcare centers, and each campus employs a homeless liaison dedicated to supporting students experiencing housing insecurity. These efforts are part of SUNY's mission to help every student succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you to Senator Pat Fahy, Assemblymember Gabriella Romero, and Assemblymember Sarah Clark for joining the conversation and supporting this important work.

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

More photos available [here](#).

On September 19, Will and Maria met with the new cohort of **Educational Opportunity Program** (EOP) Ambassadors to discuss the role of the Office

of Government Relations, the state budget process, and the importance of civic participation at the local, state, and federal levels. Students practiced their elevator pitches and learned how, in their role as ambassadors, they can advocate for continued support of the program.

EOP provides access, academic support, and financial assistance to students with the potential to succeed in college, but who may not have had the same educational or economic opportunities as others. EOP Ambassadors serve as student representatives of this program, helping to ensure its impact and presence on every campus through leadership and advocacy.

## 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!

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

## Trivia Answer

*Trick Question! All of these were invented/improved at a SUNY Institution.*

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) was invented by Raymond Damadian at **Downstate Health Sciences University** in the 1970s.

Bar code scanning was invented by Jerome Swartz, Theo Pavlidis, and Eugene Joseph at **Stony Brook University** in the 1990s.

The nation's top-rated and most accurate COVID-19 saliva test was developed by Frank Middleton at **Upstate Medical University** in 2020.

Critical improvements in lithography and chemical vapor deposition for computer chip fabrication were invented by Robert Brainard and Harry Efstathiadis at the **University at Albany** in the 2000s.

## Looking towards the future

- The New York State Assembly Undergraduate and Graduate Internship Program applications have opened. Check it out [here](#).
- The Empire State Service Corps 2025-26 applications have opened. Check it out [here](#).

- The SUNY Washington Internship Program Spring 2026 applications have opened. Check it out [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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