



February 12, 2021

Dear Legislators,

We thank you for your support for higher education in this year's budget, as well as all you have done in the past to support the 1.2 million college students earning their degree at a public or private institution in New York State. We now seek your support for an Executive Budget proposal (**ELFA Part C**) that has no fiscal impact and better serves students by giving our colleges and universities the much-needed ability to streamline the process for accredited institutions to adopt new curricula or programs of academic study, allowing us to regain competitiveness we've lost to out-of-state colleges and universities enrolling our residents.

New York's decades-old review process is lengthy and duplicative, slowing our ability to offer new academic degrees and certifications that meet emerging workforce demand. It contributes to the loss of students who select other schools in other states because the program they want is not yet available here. Today more than 50,000 New Yorkers are enrolled in an out-of-state online institution. We must curb the outflow of students and revenue—a problem which has been further accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent loss of enrollment.

Each of our colleges and universities is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. When instituting new programs or changes to existing programs, our faculty and academic leadership have the expertise to lead review and approval in the same way that they can at institutions in other states. But as it stands, the process involves redundant steps, starting with an institutional and shared governance review (including external evaluation by campuses with similar programs), followed at SUNY and CUNY schools with a rigorous review by System Administration, followed by yet another layer of review at the State Education Department (SED). These redundancies add hundreds of days on average to the process. In comparison, 35 other states have no state-level approval for new programs. By comparison:

- The University of North Carolina as well as public community colleges and non-profit higher education institutions in that state can review and approve new/revised programs.
- Connecticut's two public systems manage review and approval by their Board of Trustees (University of Connecticut) or Board of Regents (Connecticut State Colleges and Universities). Connecticut's non-profit private colleges and universities that meet certain criteria are exempt from the state's approval process for up to 12 new programs in any academic year and for any program modifications.
- California's three public systems – University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges – have their own program review and approval process.

- Massachusetts's Board of Higher Education offers a streamlined process for review and approval of new academic programs offered by independent institutions that meet certain criteria, significantly reducing the time and cost of program approval.

We only ask for the same opportunities as our competitors. Our schools have a strong relationship with SED and respect and appreciate the staff's work tremendously. Our concern rests solely with a process that has always been duplicative and over time has become costly and burdensome. This change does not affect the requirement that institutions submit a master plan amendment for expansion of academic mission, nor SED's role in professional licensure. It is strictly limited to the review and approval of the programs offered by our campuses that do not require a master plan amendment or lead to professional licensure.

Our institutions will lead New York State's recovery from this pandemic. To do so we need your support in modernizing a program review process that is preventing us from adapting to quickly-changing workforce needs. We would be happy to provide any additional materials and answer any questions in order to earn your support.

Sincerely,



Jim Malatras
Chancellor
SUNY



Drew Bogner
Interim President
CICU



Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
Chancellor
CUNY

Christine Riordan
President
Adelphi University

Leon Botstein
President
Bard College

Dennis McKenna
President & CEO
Albany Medical College

Sian Leah Beilock
President
Barnard College

Skip Sullivan
President
Alfred State College

David Wu
President
Baruch College

Mark Zupan
President
Alfred University

Harvey Stenger
President
Binghamton University

Gabrielle Gaustad
VP for Statutory Affairs
NYS College of Ceramics, Alfred University

Victor Alicea
President
Boricua College

Anthony Munroe
President
Borough of Manhattan Community College

Thomas A. Isekenegbe
President
Bronx Community College

Michelle Anderson
President
Brooklyn College

Katherine Conway-Turner
President
Buffalo State College

John Hurley
President
Canisius College

Brian Durant
President
Cayuga County Community College

Ronald Chesbrough
President
Cazenovia College

Ray DiPasquale
President
Clinton Community College

Brian Casey
President
Colgate University

Susan Burns
President
College of Mount Saint Vincent

William Fritz
President
College of Staten Island

Lee Bollinger
President
Columbia University in the City of New York

Carlee Drummer
President
Columbia-Green Community College

John Arthur Nunes
President
Concordia College

Martha Pollack
President
Cornell University

Benjamin Houlton
Dean
**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Cornell University**

Rachel Dunifon
Dean
**College of Human Ecology
Cornell University**

Lorin Warnick
Dean
**College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University**

Alexander Colvin
Dean
**School of Industrial and Labor Relations
Cornell University**

William Mullaney
President
Corning Community College

Sarah Bartlett
Dean
**Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism
at CUNY**

Robin Garrell
President
CUNY Graduate Center

Gregory Mantsios
Dean
CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

Mary Lu Bilek
Dean
CUNY School of Law

John Mogulescu
Dean
CUNY School of Professional Studies

Ayman El-Mohandes
Dean
CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy

Lorrie Clemo
President
D'Youville College

Gary Olson
President
Daemen College

Mary Eileen O'Brien
President
Dominican College

Wayne Riley
President
SUNY Downstate Medical Center

Ellen Gambino
President
Dutchess Community College

Nathan Gonyea
Officer in Charge
Empire State College

William Reuter
Interim President
Erie Community College

David Schejbal
President
Excelsior College

John Nader
President
Farmingdale State College

Joyce Brown
President
Fashion Institute of Technology

Robert Nye
President
Finger Lakes Community College

Joseph McShane
President
Fordham University

Gregory Truckenmiller
Acting President
Fulton-Montgomery Community College

James Sunser
President
Genesee Community College

Doris Cintrón
Interim President
Guttman Community College

David Wippman
President
Hamilton College

Joyce Griffin-Sobel
President and CEO
Helene Fuld College of Nursing

Cathleen McColgin
President
Herkimer Community College

Michael Brophy
President
Hilbert College

Joyce Jacobsen
President
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Stuart Rabinowitz
President
Hofstra University

Daisy Cocco De Filippis
Interim President
Hostos Community College

Shirley Mullen
President
Houghton College

Roger Ramsammy
President
Hudson Valley Community College

Jennifer Raab
President
Hunter College

Shirley Collado
President
Ithaca College

Daniel DeMarte
President
Jamestown Community College

Ty Stone
President
Jefferson Community College

Shuly Rubin Schwartz
Chancellor
Jewish Theological Seminary

Karol Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Amy Storey
President
Keuka College

Claudia Schrader
President
Kingsborough Community College

Kenneth Adams
President
LaGuardia Community College

Linda LeMura
President
Le Moyne College

Daniel Lemons
Interim President
Lehman College

Kimberly Cline
President
Long Island University

Brennan O'Donnell
President
Manhattan College

James Gandre
President
Manhattan School of Music

Michael Geisler
President
Manhattanville College

Thomas Gamble
President
Maria College

Dennis Murray
President
Marist College

Kerry Walk
President
Marymount Manhattan College

Kenneth Macur
President
Medaille College

Rudolph Crew
President
Medgar Evers College

Tim Hall
President
Mercy College

Joanne Passaro
President
Metropolitan College of New York

Randall VanWagoner
President
Mohawk Valley Community College

James Lentini
President
Molloy College

Katherine Douglas
Interim President
Monroe Community College

Jason Adsit
President
Mount Saint Mary College

Jermaine Williams
President
Nassau Community College

Elizabeth Paul
President
Nazareth College

Michael Mestan
President
New York Chiropractic College

Russell Hotzler
President
New York City College of Technology

Louis Levine
President & Chief Executive Officer
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Henry Foley
President & Chief Executive Officer
New York Institute of Technology

David Sprouls
President
New York School of Interior Design

Andrew Hamilton
President
New York University

William Murabito
President
Niagara County Community College

Joseph Keegan
President
North Country Community College

Casey Crabill
President
Onondaga Community College

Kristine Young
President
Orange County Community College

Marvin Krislov
President
Pace University

Frances Bronet
President
Pratt Institute

Milagros Peña
President
Purchase College

Frank Wu
President
Queens College

Christine Mangino
President
Queensborough Community College

Deana Porterfield
President
Roberts Wesleyan College

David Munson
President
Rochester Institute of Technology

Michael Baston
President
Rockland Community College

Christopher Ames
President
Russell Sage College

Cristle Collins Judd
President
Sarah Lawrence College

Steady Moono
President
Schenectady County Community College

Marc Conner
President
Skidmore College

Joseph Zimmer
Acting President
St. Bonaventure University

Varinya Sheppard
President
St. Elizabeth College of Nursing

Miguel Martinez-Saenz
President
St. Francis College

Brian Shanley
President
Saint John's University

Donald Boomgaarden
President
St. Joseph's College of New York

William Fox
President
St. Lawrence University

Kenneth Daly
President
St. Thomas Aquinas College

Maurie McInnis
President
Stony Brook University

Louis Petrizzo
Interim President
Suffolk County Community College

Jay Quaintance
President
Sullivan County Community College

Kristine Duffy
President
SUNY Adirondack

Heidi Macpherson
President
SUNY Brockport

Kevin Drumm
President
SUNY Broome

Zvi Szafran
President
SUNY Canton

Marion Terenzio
President
SUNY Cobleskill

Joanie Mahoney
President
SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry

David Heath
President
SUNY College of Optometry

Erik Bitterbaum
President
SUNY Cortland

Michael LaLiberte
President
SUNY Delhi

Stephen Kolison
President
SUNY Fredonia

Denise Battles
President
SUNY Geneseo

Michael Alfultis
President
SUNY Maritime

David Rogers
President
SUNY Morrisville

Donald Christian
President
SUNY New Paltz

Timothy Sams
President
SUNY Old Westbury

Dennis Craig
Acting President
SUNY Oneonta

Deborah Stanley
President
SUNY Oswego

Alexander Enyedi
President
SUNY Plattsburgh

Tod Laursen
Acting President
SUNY Polytechnic Institute

Kristin Esterberg
President
SUNY Potsdam

Thomas R. Bailey
President
Teachers College, Columbia University

Vincent Boudreau
President
The City College of New York

Laura Sparks
President
**The Cooper Union for the Advancement of
Science and Art**

Tim Gibson
President
The King's College

Dwight McBride
President
The New School

Orinthia Montague
President
Thompkins Cortland Community College

Alan Kadish
President
Touro College

Bassam Deeb
President
Trocaire College

Alan Roberts
President
Ulster County Community College

David Harris
President
Union College

Havidán Rodríguez
President
University at Albany

Satish Tripathi
President
University at Buffalo

Mantosh Dewan
President
Upstate Medical University

Laura Casamento
President
Utica College

Elizabeth Bradley
President
Vassar College

Sharon DeVivo
President
Vaughn College

Matthew Giordano
President
Villa Maria College

Joel Martin
President
Wagner College

Jonathan Gibraltar
President
Wells College

Belinda Miles
President
Westchester Community College

Mary Pearl
Dean
William E. Macaulay Honors College

Ari Berman
President
Yeshiva University

Berenecea Eanes
President
York College