

Greetings and Happy New Year to all!

Welcome back to a new semester and to our Winter Plenary meeting at Stony Brook University. We will have a busy meeting, as always. We will be joined by Chairman McCall, Chancellor Zimpher, Provost Cartwright, and Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Eileen McGoughlin. We'll welcome State Senator Ken LaValle, chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, who will join us for dinner on Friday evening, and to whom we will bestow the Friend of the Senate award. We'll focus some of our discussion on high impact practices, particularly as they relate to applied learning. And those of us who enjoy college basketball will be able to see Stony Brook and Albany renew their rivalry.

I use this message to provide you with updates on key happenings and activities at SUNY, along with a summary of some of the key actions of the Board of Trustees.

1. **Performance Improvement Plans (PIP) and SUNY Investment Fund.** The PIPs were submitted by the campuses in October. Staff from the SUNY Provost's office reviewed the submissions, and the Provost and Chancellor approved all of them by the end of 2015, in accordance with the 2015 legislative mandate. There was some give-and-take between System Administration and some campuses regarding goals; for example, at least one campus had set a goal based on initial data supplied by SUNY, only to have SUNY update the data and find that the campus had already exceeded the goal. All of the campus plans are available publicly via the SUNY [website](#). A summary of the campus goals tied to the 17 metrics/areas in the SUNY Excels matrix, reported by sector, is provided for you as a separate document.
2. **SUNY Investment Fund.** SUNY announced the first phase of "winners" for the \$18 million Investment Fund, coincident with the State of the University address. There are a number of themes that developed in getting to the final awards: data systems; procurement; SmartTrack for all interested State-op campuses. Also a majority are collaborative awards, some among State-ops, some including community colleges. The list that was announced on Monday is appended below. "Winners" of the other portions of the \$100 million will be announced later this semester, and I'll provide that information to you as it is made available.
3. **Executive Budget Proposal.** Summary from Stacey Hengsterman, SUNY's Chief of Staff and Director of Government Relations: "This year's Executive Budget represents a substantial improvement from last year's in terms of a starting point for negotiations. While traditional legislative adds for specific programs and the hospital subsidy have been removed, the Governor did continue funding for the Investment and Performance Fund at \$18.0M and maintained funding levels for programs such as the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)/ATTAIN. In addition, new programmatic funding has been provided for a Clean Energy Workforce Opportunity Program at both the State-operated campuses and community colleges (\$15.0M total, \$10.0M State-operated / \$5.0M community colleges), an "Apprentice SUNY" Program at the community colleges (\$5.0M), and an additional \$1.0M for two further community schools within the community colleges. Finally, 2011's NY-SUNY 2020 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and Predictable Tuition Plan has been extended, providing for continued resident undergraduate tuition rate increases (subject to certain conditions) and flat year-to-year funding when taking into account increases in the State's support of fringe benefit costs."

I concur with Stacey that the Executive Budget is a much more positive starting point than in past years. As with past years, however, it does not “maintain” the prior year’s funding, despite the MOE provisions of the NYSUNY2020 legislation, in that the Governor has removed most of the “add-ons” that the Legislature included in the Enacted 2015-16 budget (though total funding to SUNY increases if you include the funds for fringe benefits). And there is certainly a lot of work to do in order to embed a *true* Maintenance of Effort into the budget for this year and into the future. This is where our advocacy needs to be focused. We’ll talk more about this after Eileen McLoughlin shares additional information with us at the Plenary regarding the SUNY budget proposal and the Executive budget proposal.

4. **Applied Learning Initiative.** Communication went out to campuses from the Provost, based on the recommendations of the Applied Learning Steering Committee (of which I am co-chair), just after Thanksgiving with final guidance for criteria to be used in determining whether or not existing and future applied learning activities are “approved”, along with a template to complete a compilation of current approved activities (due February 15), all in response to language in the 2015-16 enacted budget and subsequent Board of Trustees resolution. Further guidance will be sent shortly (or perhaps by our Plenary) to campuses to assist in the preparation of additional parts of the plan due this academic year. These initial campus plans are due to System Administration by April 15 to be incorporated into a System-wide Applied Learning Plan, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees in May to fulfill the 2015 legislative mandate. These plans will cover 4 areas: current applied learning opportunities (due Feb 15 as mentioned above); how faculty are/will be involved; how students currently/will learn about opportunities; how data will be collected documenting engagement in applied learning. Actual data collection as well as evaluation of economic impact and a decision on whether or not a campus chooses to make an applied learning experience a graduation requirement all will be done in the 2016-17 academic year. We’ll have an opportunity to discuss this initiative further at the Plenary.
5. **TeachNY.** This is a SUNY/State Education Department project to identify and implement improvements in teacher education at SUNY. A draft report was circulated to the TeachNY Advisory Committee and others for comment in November. There were numerous recommendations in the draft report, dealing with a wide range of topics from how to engage students into teacher education, to changes in some aspects of curriculum, to improving the retention of teachers after they enter the profession. I will share more information with you once a final report is released.
6. **MOE and other Cuomo actions.** As expected, Governor Cuomo vetoed the Maintenance of Effort bill, asserting that it should be dealt with in the budget. He did not provide any increases in base funding, as noted above, so inclusion of something close to a true maintenance of effort is my principal advocacy goal for the legislative session. The Governor did, finally after several years, sign the bill that provides the same retirement benefits to SUNY police as to other State police (after the argument was made, convincingly, that it cost the State more to keep training SUNY police who would leave for the better deals available in other State police forces than it would cost to provide the retirement benefits). He announced that SUNY employees will see their minimum wage rise to \$15/hr by 2021. The Board of Trustees passed a resolution formalizing this for all non-unionized SUNY workers (applying this to unionized workers requires contract negotiations). SUNY estimates this will affect nearly 30,500 employees, most of whom (95.5%) are work study or other student

assistant workers. The total incremental cost would be \$29.5 million annually by the time it is fully implemented, assuming no cut in hours. The original announcement made it clear that this would be absorbed in the SUNY budget—so read that as yet another cut in real terms. There was considerable discussion about this budgetary impact at the Board meeting on Jan 11-12, but no final resolution (except to say that SUNY will need to advocate for additional funding).

7. **Changes to Board Policies re. UFS VP.** The Board of Trustees approved our request to change the Policies with respect to the Vice President position and eligibility for election/re-election. Because these Policies are part of New York State Rules and Regulations, the next step is that the changes must be published with a 45-day comment period, followed in late March by a second Board resolution of final rule-making, followed finally by formal publishing of the revisions by the NY Department of State in April. I am hopeful that this will all be done in advance of our May Plenary meeting at Brockport, such that our election for VP would be run under the new rules.
8. **Promotions and other personnel changes at System Administration.** Joseph Porter, General Counsel, and Eileen McLoughlin, Chief Financial Officer, were promoted to Senior Vice Chancellor (with no salary increase) at the January 12 Board meeting. Dr. Carlos Medina, Chief Diversity Officer, was promoted to Vice Chancellor, again with no change in compensation. These promotions, at the Chancellor's request, align these individuals with their expanded duties. Two retirements in the Provost's office are relevant to some of what we do: Ruth Pagerey, who was Assistant Provost for Teacher Education, and Bob Kraushaar, Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty and Professional Development (and System liaison to our Programs and Awards Committee). There is some additional hiring occurring as well, including Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, President of the Research Foundation, and one or two others with whom some of us will be working in the future. I will update you on these appointments as they occur.
9. **Presidential Searches.** The search for a new President at Delhi is in its final stages; the Board likely will be approving a new President in March. The search at Farmingdale is at an advanced stage; I expect the Board will be approving a new President in May or June. The President of Downstate Medical College, "Skip" Williams, announced his resignation, effective in June, and a search is being prepared. SUNY is revisiting some aspects of the Presidential search process, mostly centered on the role of the Board of Trustees and the timing of the end stages of the process; I will update you on the proposed changes orally, as the Board will see the final recommendations only in March.

I believe this covers most of the activities that have occurred since my last contact with you. We will be able to expand on these and any other issues you wish to discuss during the Plenary meeting. I look forward to seeing you at Stony Brook.

SUNY Innovation Fund awards:

Capital Region

University at Albany will receive \$1.5 million to create the Advantage Program to enhance advising by providing faculty and staff with the tools they need to conduct early outreach and intervention for students in academic distress.

The University at Albany, Binghamton University, University at Buffalo, and Stony Brook University will receive \$1 million (\$250,000 each) to build common student learning outcomes and assessments to increase completion in high demand/high impact gateway undergraduate courses.

Empire State College will receive \$400,000 to create a Bachelor's of Science in Health Sciences, drawing on fields that span the healthcare professions.

Central New York

SUNY Cortland will receive \$1 million to scale up the Sharing Technology and Academic Resources-NY Consortium (STAR-NY), a real-time, online tutoring service that is free to students. [STAR-NY](#) includes 14 SUNY schools sharing resources and expertise.

SUNY Cortland will receive \$240,000 to work with **Tompkins Cortland Community College** and **SUNY Broome** to support the transfer path from a two-year to four-year baccalaureate program.

SUNY ESF will receive \$190,000 to support new online-enabled STEM-focused programs that will increase overall enrollment and credentialing.

SUNY Oswego will receive \$750,000 to begin a three-pronged effort to improve student outcomes in Math, including a Mathematics Learning Success Center, summer bridge program, and technologically-enhanced instruction.

SUNY Oswego and Jefferson Community College will receive \$275,000 to support the Start Now program, where students from low-income areas who do not meet freshman admission criteria can enroll in community college and receive various supports from the four-year campus, including a student mentor.

SUNY Upstate will receive \$575,000 to establish the SUNY Institute for Precision Cancer Research, Education and Care (IPCREC), which will fuse a patient's personal data to the cancer treatments in the clinic. Partnering campuses include: **SUNY Oswego, Onondaga Community College, and SUNY ESF.**

Finger Lakes

SUNY College at Brockport will receive \$600,000 to support the creation of an Academic Success Center at the college that will support student retention and completion.

SUNY College at Brockport will receive \$200,000 to support an ongoing initiative to identify former students of the college and provide them with new information and access to help them finish their degree.

SUNY College at Brockport and Monroe Community College will receive \$600,000 to work with the Rochester EOC to facilitate degree completion among at-risk students in the region.

SUNY Geneseo and Monroe Community College will receive \$275,000 to transform their existing Honors program into Honors Transfer Path and enhance services for students.

SUNY Geneseo will receive \$200,000 for supplies, equipment, and training associated with the creation of a Critical Language Consortium. Partnering campuses include **SUNY College at Brockport and Monroe Community College.**

Long Island

Farmingdale State College will receive \$1.3 million to launch "Students First & Foremost," which will accelerate student success rates using a 4π approach: Pickup Tutoring, Pilot Mentoring, Pipeline Advising, and Pivotal Learning.

SUNY Old Westbury will receive \$500,000 to support the creation of a digital campus that will use technology to construct digital curricula, transform teaching and learning approaches, build active learning spaces, and automate student-centered business processes.

Stony Brook University will receive \$1.75 million to support its goal of increasing the four-year graduation rate for entering freshman by 60 percent by 2020, including an extension of a pilot Finish in Four program that demonstrated 100 percent success in the first year.

The University at Albany, Binghamton University, University at Buffalo, and Stony Brook University will receive \$1 million (\$250,000 each) to build common student learning outcomes and assessments to increase completion in high demand/high impact gateway undergraduate courses.

Mohawk Valley

SUNY Cobleskill will receive \$110,000 to train faculty and purchase supplies in order to expand the College in High School/Home School program.

SUNY Cobleskill will receive \$70,000 to support the development of a Farm and Food Entrepreneurship certificate program and Farm to Plate Camp, a summer program for k-12 students. The **SUNY College of Agriculture and Life Sciences** at Cornell University will partner.

SUNY Oneonta and **SUNY Cobleskill** will receive \$350,000 for a “Making Cents” financial literacy program that will help students develop a strong understanding of personal financial management concepts.

SUNY Oneonta will receive \$90,000 to enhance its advisement capabilities, including the acquisition and implementation of Early Alert Software.

SUNY Oneonta will receive \$20,000 to increase graduate student enrollment, retention, and post-graduate success.

SUNY Polytechnic Institute will receive \$450,000 as the lead campus working with **Mohawk Valley Community College** and **SUNY Morrisville** to establish a High Impact Learning and Teaching Hub that will advance applied learning opportunities for students.

New York City

Downstate Medical Center and **Nassau Community College** will receive \$375,000 to create a joint Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

SUNY Maritime College will receive \$750,000 to expand tutoring services and add a writing center to the Academic Success Center (ASC), and to create a new innovative Sophomore Program for Academic Skills and Success (Sophomore PASS) program for at-risk students in the summer between freshman and sophomore year.

North Country

SUNY Canton will receive \$575,000 to expand access to Jump Start, a summer boot-camp style program that provides remedial opportunities for students.

SUNY Canton and **Jefferson Community College** will receive \$500,000 to expand evidence-based interventions that support retention and completion among Veteran students.

Southern Tier

Binghamton University and **SUNY Broome** will receive \$350,000 to increase diversity among STEM graduates by providing intensive research experience to undergraduate students from non-traditional pathways, such as first-generation students and community college transfers.

Binghamton University and **SUNY Broome** will receive \$360,000 to provide college access and support services to help local residents and current students finish their degree.

The University at Albany, Binghamton University, University at Buffalo, and Stony Brook University will receive \$1 million (\$250,000 each) to build common student learning outcomes and assessments to increase completion in high demand/high impact gateway undergraduate courses.

SUNY Delhi will receive \$525,000 to create a program that will provide immediate, centralized, and structured advisement throughout the college careers of at-risk students.

Western New York

The University at Albany, Binghamton University, University at Buffalo, and Stony Brook University will receive \$1 million (\$250,000 each) to build common student learning outcomes and assessments to increase completion in high demand/high impact gateway undergraduate courses.

The **University at Buffalo** will receive \$1.75 million to develop innovative skills-based, experiential, and interdisciplinary Advanced Certificate and Master’s degree programs that complement the degrees and skills acquired in Arts and Humanities study and provide students with pathways to employment.

SUNY Fredonia will receive \$420,000 to lead a five-campus partnership to analyze course offerings, course capacity, and space utilization. Partnering campuses are **College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Dutchess Community College, SUNY Oneonta, and Schenectady Community College.**

In addition to the awards above, Chancellor Zimpher announced that SUNY is committed to funding campus proposals in five areas that were common among applicants. They are:

- **Early Alert Software** – expanding the use of early alert software, which notifies advisors and faculty when students are falling behind, so that interventions can be made to keep students on track for degree completion.
- **Quantway/Statway Implementation** – leveraging a recent [\\$1.8M grant](#) from the Gates foundation, SUNY will invest the remaining funds necessary to make these remedial math pathways available to students across all SUNY campuses interested in participating.
- **Data Collection & Utilization** – programs to improve the collection of data by campuses throughout SUNY and to bring uniform student success analytics to scale.
- **North Country Initiatives** – programs for which SUNY campuses in the North Country region of the state will collaborate to build stronger connections with the local community.
- **Smart Track Re-Enroll to Complete** – more than 25 SUNY campuses will collaborate to proactively engage with students who have withdrawn and encourage them to return and finish their degree.