



H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway, Albany, New York 12246

www.suny.edu

March 25, 2021

Dear Budget Director Mujica,

We write to express our strong support for proposed Executive Budget language providing the State University of New York (SUNY) with much-needed authority to establish flexible tuition rates to our doctoral and other research institutions—the four University Centers that include two Association of American Universities (AAU). These venerated SUNY institutions are renowned for providing opportunity and promoting upward social mobility, as well as research, innovation, clinical care and more. We are economic drivers for the state (\$12.75 Billion in statewide economic activity last year alone) and our ability to remain leaders in our regions and the fields we offer is dependent on whether we have the resources to be effective and competitive.

This change will more closely align the University Centers with the public and private postsecondary institution systems with whom we compete for students, faculty, research grants, and more. And as we've demonstrated during COVID, SUNY research and innovation is second to none. The flexible program will continue to ensure access to the most financially vulnerable students by holding those with the greatest financial need harmless while allowing SUNY to keep pace with other institutions in research capability, innovation, and development.

SUNY today, like CUNY, is one of the most affordable systems of public higher education in the country. That is thanks to the leadership of the Governor and legislators over many years. Still, SUNY is one of only four systems nationally requiring like Resident Undergraduate Tuition for *all* campuses, regardless of size or complexity in composition. This forces a reliance on required fees to provide the services and instructional excellence students are expecting. The Executive Budget proposal would aid in reversing this trend while supporting student clarity in the cost of attendance.

We appreciate all that the Governor and legislators have invested into public higher education and New York's students over the years. We know that the Division of Budget understands this issue well and we urge you to include flexible tuition in this year's Enacted Budget. As always, please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

Jim Malatras
Chancellor
SUNY System Administration

Harvey Stenger
President
Binghamton University

Maurie McInnis
President
Stony Brook University

Havidán Rodríguez
President
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