



March 26, 2018

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Hon. John J. Flanagan
Senate Majority Leader
Room 330
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12247

Hon. Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Flanagan, and Speaker Heastie:

As the budget deadline approaches, we find it imperative to contact you to reiterate the importance of funding contractual salary increases (CSI) in the SUNY budget in the coming year. We are grateful that the Senate and Assembly included partial funding for the CSI expense in their one-house budget bills.

We are firm believers in the good work done by our employees and support contractual raises. CSIs, however, have not been reimbursed since FY15, leading to a total combined base funding shortfall for the state's four University Centers at approximately \$69M. Future and retroactive contractual increases will compound the shortfall. Most of the universities covered the FY15 through FY17 salary increases with reserves, but there is no way to replenish this one-time money under current fiscal conditions.

During the SUNY 2020 timeframe, we had annual predictable tuition increases of \$300 for five years, but that expired in 2016 and left us with no increase that year. Meanwhile CSIs were either minimally funded or not funded during and prior to SUNY 2020 and have not been funded at all since FY15.

The 2017 State budget allows for annual tuition increases of only \$200 per year for four years, but this revenue increase does not cover CSIs. Further, we will forego the \$200 per year tuition increases from all Excelsior grantees for the next four years since tuition remains flat for the program until the 2021-22 academic year. Additionally, we are still required to pay the TAP gap that covers the difference between the 2011 tuition amount and the current tuition levels. This TAP gap payment is significant and increases annually at approximately \$26.2M for the University Centers.

We had great success in meeting our stated goals during the SUNY 2020 era, resulting in increased research, increased graduation rates, and increased prestige for New York's research universities. These gains are now at risk. The very real costs described above, when absorbed along with the usual

increases for goods and services and the planned and unexpected expenses of an aging infrastructure, contribute to an urgent need for action.

We appreciate your ongoing support and respectfully request that funding be included in the final budget that will fully cover the well-deserved salary increases for our employees.

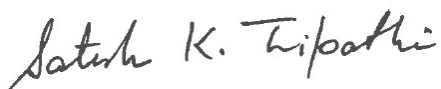
Sincerely,



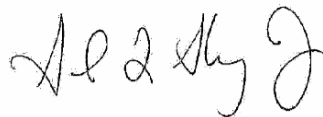
Havidán Rodríguez
President
University at Albany



Harvey G. Stenger
President
Binghamton University



Satish K. Tripathi
President
University at Buffalo



Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President
Stony Brook University

cc: Senator Kenneth P. LaValle
Assemblymember Deborah Glick