

November 18, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your letter of November, 2015.

I very much appreciate and share your commitment to The City University of New York, its important mission and the opportunity it represents for so many New Yorkers, particularly the immigrants, first generation and the low-income students it has served for over 150 years. There is perhaps no institution that so fully serves the aims of public higher education in offering broad, affordable access and the highest quality education and scholarship. The work you and your colleagues do every day makes this possible and you deserve our support.

Public higher education throughout the country has been stressed for years, with declining state investments resulting in higher tuition, very difficult budget choices and cuts at many universities. The State of New York has provided a more robust system of financial aid than most other states, complementing federal need-based aid. But unfortunately, we are now experiencing some of the same patterns of inadequate investment in operating and capital budgets that threaten both access and quality. I have spent my career advocating for investment in public higher education, as I believe there are few other state budget priorities that provide a better return on investment for taxpayers. I will continue to make this case to the Governor, the Legislature and the public and I hope you will join me in this effort.

Thank you for all you do for CUNY and for the people we serve.

Sincerely,



James B. Milliken