

**Resolution Title:** Reaffirmation of the Resolution on New York State Funding for Higher Education

**Submitted by:** Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, New York State is a major center of the new economy, representing professionals, service, commerce and public sector employees; and

WHEREAS, New York State is a major magnet for first-generation immigrants; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to large concentrations of women and minority workers; and

WHEREAS, City University of New York (CUNY) and State University of New York (SUNY), including the community colleges, are the major educational institutions of New York State that provide the education and skills for the future employees and tax payers of New York State; and

WHEREAS, CUNY was once tuition-free, but under-funding by New York State makes CUNY senior college tuition 12% higher than the national average for public four-year colleges and CUNY community college tuition is 83% higher than the national average for two-year colleges; and

WHEREAS, overall, New York needs to make a bigger effort to fund public higher education as documented by "Measuring Up 2000: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education," a report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, New York ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in funding increases in state and local appropriations for higher education from 1990-1999, according to "Measuring Up"; and

WHEREAS, New York ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> for dollars per \$1000 of personal income in FY 1999 allocated for higher education; and

WHEREAS, New York ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in per capita allocation for higher education in FY 1999; and

WHEREAS, New York's students pay the highest percent of their income, 33% for tuition at the lowest-priced colleges, while the national average is 15%; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was adopted by delegates to the New York State United Teachers Resolution Assembly but is due to expire in 2005; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that New York State United Teachers call upon the political leadership of the legislative and executive branches of NYS government to dramatically increase appropriations for public higher education so that New York State takes its rightful place among those states which lead in educational expenditures for public institutions of higher education.