

Keep Albany's Promise



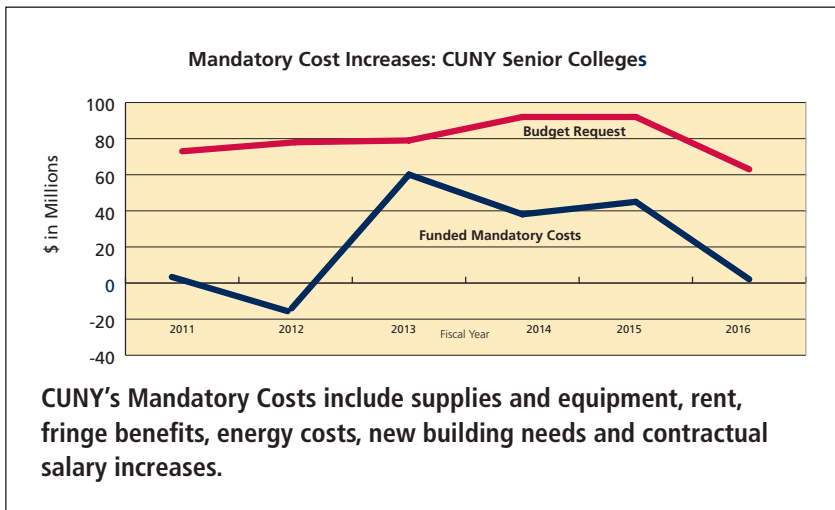
THE PROMISE

"Coupled with the NYSUNY2020 commitment to provide a consistent level of State General Fund support, the rational tuition policy makes it possible for the public university systems to add faculty, reduce class size, expand program offerings, and improve academic performance."

Governor Cuomo, 2015 Opportunity Agenda

LAWMAKERS VOTED TO INCREASE tuition \$1,500 with the understanding that the increases would go to enhance education, not to offset shortfalls in State funding. But the promise of SUNY2020 has not been kept. Tuition has been used to fund existing services instead of new investments.

By not providing General Fund support for all of CUNY's Mandatory Costs, Albany forces CUNY to use tuition revenue to fill the gap in State funding rather than to make desperately needed improvements for students.



CUNY Senior Colleges			
Fiscal Year	Mandatory Costs	Funded Mandatory Costs	Tuition-Covered Shortfall
\$ in Millions			
2011	72.5	6.9	65.5
2012	78.2	-19.4	97.6
2013	78.8	57.6	21.1
2014	92.2	34.8	55.8
2015	92.4	42.9	49.5
2016	62.9	0	62.9

The 2016 Executive Budget leaves CUNY with \$63 million in unfunded Mandatory Costs.

WITHOUT A TRUE maintenance of effort from the State, CUNY can't make the improvements promised by SUNY2020. Even with tuition hikes, shortfalls in public funding for Mandatory Costs mean CUNY cannot fix its dismal full-time faculty-to-student ratio, increase individual attention for students, improve the treatment of adjunct

faculty or provide enough mentors for students. The University will remain diminished in its ability to compete in the national academic labor market as long as Mandatory Costs remain unfunded, and CUNY's student counseling and support services will remain unable to fulfill all students' needs.

Albany's disinvestment in CUNY continues with SUNY2020. FUND ALL OF CUNY'S MANDATORY COSTS IN FY 2016.

A Plan that Keeps the Promise of CUNY

FUND CUNY'S UNMET MANDATORY COSTS (\$63M), AND RESTORE SENIOR COLLEGE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES (\$2.1M).

THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FUNDS none of CUNY's projected senior college cost increases for fringe benefits and contractual salary increases, and provides no money for inflationary costs for energy, rent, and other non-personnel costs. Without public funding for these expenses, all revenue from next year's \$300/student tuition hike (\$60.8 million) will be used to fill the hole in CUNY's budget, programming will be short-changed to fill the remaining gap in the budget (\$2.2 million), and students will be deprived of enhanced academic and career counseling and additional full-time faculty. Senior college funds are also needed to restore the Joseph S. Murphy Institute and the opportunity program SEEK (total \$2.1 million).

TO PROTECT OPPORTUNITY, REJECT PERFORMANCE FUNDING FOR CUNY.

THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET would hold back 10% of CUNY's funding pending colleges' submission of improvement plans to meet ill-conceived "performance measures." Shifting to performance funding would wreak havoc with colleges' ability to plan, hire staff and provide for students' needs—especially when CUNY is so seriously underfunded. Worse, it could undermine CUNY's access mission, incentivizing enrollment of students who will generate the statistics needed to guarantee funding.

FUND CUNY'S INVESTMENT PLAN FOR SENIOR COLLEGES TO HIRE NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY (\$23.3M).

IMPROVING THE RATIO of full-time faculty to students is a proven way to increase graduation and retention rates. CUNY increased the number of full-time faculty by 23% between 2004-05 and 2014-15, but enrollment growth swamped the gains. Almost 275,000 students are working toward a college degree at CUNY, yet the University employs only two-thirds of the number of full-time faculty it had in 1975, when enrollment was 250,000. With too few full-time faculty, CUNY relies on low-wage adjunct faculty with no job security and meager benefits. CUNY has a plan to add 500 new full-time faculty this year; that can't happen without full funding for the University Budget Request.

RESTORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING (\$19.3M) AND LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES (\$2.2M).

CUNY'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES are among the most critical educational institutions in New York, but they are dramatically under-resourced. They serve the poorest, least prepared students, and fulfill multiple missions: offering associate degrees, providing remedial instruction, and offering an affordable entry way to college for students who intend to transfer to a four-year school. The Executive Budget provides no increase to the community college Base Aid rate, leaving it at \$2,497 per FTE, \$178 less than it was in the 2008-09 academic year (\$2,675). The Legislature should increase Base Aid by \$250 per FTE (\$17.2 million) and provide funds based on CUNY's projected enrollment growth (\$2.1 million). Community college funds are also needed to restore the College Discovery opportunity program, campus childcare and ASAP—Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (total \$2.2 million).

PASS THE NY DREAM ACT (\$27M) AND REFORM TAP TO INCREASE ACCESS FOR LOW INCOME STUDENTS.

PSC SUPPORTS THE NYS DREAM ACT and other TAP reforms put forward by the Coalition to Reform TAP. As college faculty and staff, we know the courage of undocumented students and their passion for education. The Legislature should pass the DREAM Act (\$27 million), but DREAM should not be linked to the Education Income Tax Credit, an unjust use of public dollars for private schools. Funding should also be allocated to CUNY to offset lost revenue resulting from the legal requirement that CUNY waive tuition between the maximum TAP award and the cost of tuition (\$8.4 million).

PROTECT TEACHER EDUCATION.

THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET includes teacher education policy changes that would negatively impact students and teacher preparation programs at CUNY, SUNY and private colleges and universities. The Legislature should oppose them.

FUND CUNY'S CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST (\$1.4B).

STUDENTS LEARN MORE and faculty and staff are more productive when they have modern facilities and equipment, and a safe, healthy learning environment. The Legislature should support CUNY's capital request, and allocate requested funds for critical maintenance and new construction needs.