

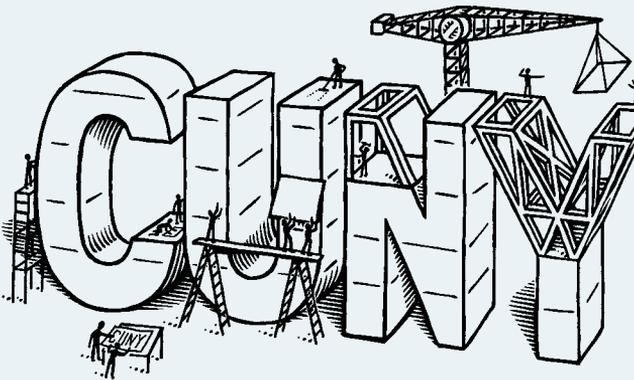
BUILDING^{the} 21st-Century CUNY

“Without world-class education, we cannot have a world-class economy.... Our goal must be to make an outstanding higher education affordable for every New Yorker.”

–Governor Eliot Spitzer,
State of the State address, 1/9/08

“SUNY and CUNY need significant investment to become competitive with other states’ top public research universities....they face a chronic problem: too little revenue, too little investment.”

–Commission on Higher Education,
preliminary report, 12/17/07



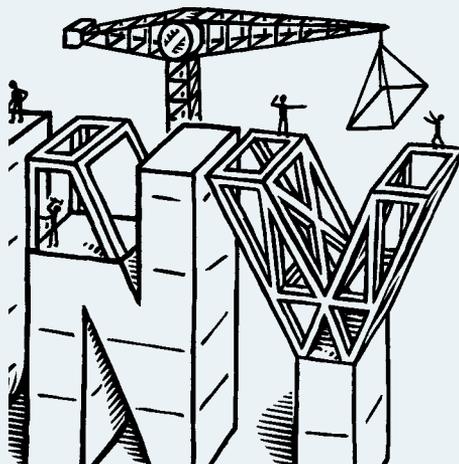
The time to invest in CUNY is NOW.
There has never been a better OPPORTUNITY.
We need the Legislature as partners
in BUILDING the 21st-Century CUNY.

The Challenge

The Commission on Higher Education has identified chronic underfunding as the underlying structural problem facing CUNY. Disinvestment endangers the quality of education CUNY can offer, yet New Yorkers need public higher education to succeed and prosper. The dimensions of the crisis are daunting:

- New York State funding for CUNY is down 18% in real dollars from its 1990 level.
- CUNY now has 6,800 full-time faculty, down by almost 5,000 from 1975, despite record enrollments.
- CUNY has increasingly shifted its teaching onto poorly-paid part-time faculty: 56% of the faculty are part-time and half of CUNY's courses are taught by adjuncts.
- Access to CUNY, historically the gateway to a better life for working people, is jeopardized. Tuition has increased as a revenue source for CUNY from 20% in 1990 to 36% in 2008.
- Uncompetitive salaries and crippling workloads have created a retention crisis at CUNY; professors at Rutgers earn 22% more than their counterparts at CUNY, and those at the University of Connecticut earn 21% more.

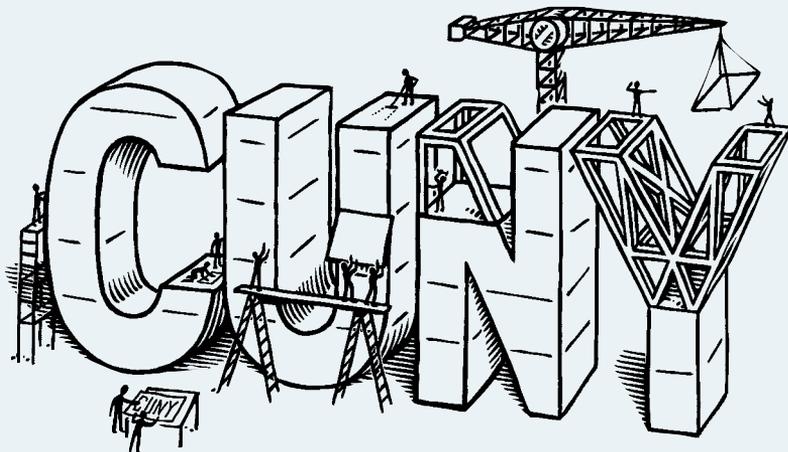
The challenge is immense, but the recognition that New York needs to reinvest in public higher education is the essential first step. With the Legislature's leadership, we can take the next step and build a foundation for the future.



Blueprint for Greatness: Building the 21st-Century CUNY

PSC Budget and Legislative Priorities

- **Support full funding of CUNY's operating and capital budget request with public dollars.**
- **Restore the proposed cuts in the Executive Budget for state aid to community colleges, and increase New York State's aid to community colleges by an additional \$250 per FTE.**
- **Fully fund a plan to recruit and retain faculty:** This year add 500 net new full-time teaching positions at CUNY to begin making real progress toward restoring full-time faculty. A significant number of new full-time faculty lines should be earmarked for long-serving part-time faculty.
- **Support doctoral student employees by providing health insurance coverage:** Unlike SUNY and almost every other university in the country, CUNY does not provide health insurance to doctoral students. In order to continue recruiting the best candidates nationally, CUNY must provide health insurance.
- **Expand mental health counseling for students:** There is an average of one licensed mental health counselor for every 5,000 general population students at CUNY senior colleges, well below the ratio recommended by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS) of one to 1,500 students.
- **Unemployment insurance for part-time faculty:** Some adjunct faculty who are unemployed between semesters are barred from collecting unemployment insurance. Like any other employees who work part-time or irregularly, adjunct faculty need unemployment insurance to get through the period when they have no income.
- **Support for students:** Support the Executive Budget's proposal for no tuition increase. Expand student services. Support TAP reform: expand part-time TAP and make it available to more students, and advance critically needed reforms to cover independent students equitably.



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