Build the path to a better future for New York. Invest in CUNY.

- **FUND** CUNY’s budget requests fully and oppose proposed cuts to community colleges
- **RAISE** revenues through progressive tax reform
- **DEFEND** Optional Retirement Program for CUNY faculty and staff
- **TREAT** CUNY adjuncts seeking Unemployment Insurance fairly
- **ASSURE** TAP benefits are distributed equitably

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**CUNY is the PATH to New York’s Future**

During the Great Depression, New York invested in public higher education: that’s when Brooklyn, Lehman and Queens Colleges got their start. And tuition was free.

New York needs that kind of courageous thinking today. Investing in public higher education is the best way to reinvigorate our economy and build our future.

Charts courtesy of the Fiscal Policy Institute.
Investing in Public Higher Education is the Path to New York’s Future

FUND CUNY’S FY 2009-2010 BUDGET REQUEST FULLY

- SUPPORT FULL FUNDING OF CUNY’s FY 2010 operating and capital budget requests with public dollars so CUNY can expand teaching and educational support services and keep up with increasing enrollments.

- OPPOSE THE PROPOSED CUT of $270 per-FTE student to Community College Base Aid and add a $100 per-FTE as requested in CUNY’s FY 2010 budget. Proposed cuts will undermine recent investments in community college education.

- CONTINUE TO REBUILD CUNY’S FULL-TIME FACULTY and provide the necessary funds for adjunct faculty. CUNY is far from realizing the goal of providing 70% instruction by full-time faculty because public funding has not kept pace with booming enrollments. And now, colleges are dealing with shortfalls by increasing class size. Public funding must be increased to maintain CUNY’s teaching quality.

- EXPAND CRITICAL STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES especially mental health counseling. In times of economic stress, students need more support. CUNY has not been able to provide adequate mental health counseling. Now is the time to make the needed investment in this critical service.

RAISE NEEDED REVENUES THROUGH PROGRESSIVE TAXATION

THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET asks more of middle-income New Yorkers than of the wealthy. Though New York’s income gap is already the widest of any state’s, the top 5% of wage earners — who currently receive 42% of all income — are being asked to cover only 3% of the budget gap.

CUNY students, more than half of whom come from households earning $30,000 or less a year, would pay 15% more for tuition, then see that money go to cover the budget deficit. That is a regressive tax.

DEFEND THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM AFTER 10 YEARS OF SERVICE, the 3% pension contribution by ORP participants is assumed by the employer. Enacting this provision in 2007 made CUNY and SUNY more competitive. Eliminating it would make no contribution to closing this year’s budget gap because no savings would be realized for 10 years.

TREAT PART-TIME FACULTY FAIRLY BY PROVIDING EQUAL ACCESS TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SOME ADJUNCT FACULTY who are unemployed between semesters are barred from collecting unemployment benefits. Like other employees whose work is discontinuous or seasonal, adjunct faculty should be entitled to unemployment during periods when they have no income — as they are in other states.

SUPPORT TAP EQUITY — TREAT STUDENTS FAIRLY THE PSC SUPPORTS real TAP reform: expansion of part-time TAP, equity for financially independent students without dependents and pro-rated TAP to full-time students based on graduation requirements of 60 or 120 credits. The Executive Budget recommendations should reflect real reform by adopting these changes and maintaining full-time status at 12 credits, current performance standards and existing financial eligibility. These reforms would support students; the governor’s proposed changes would harm students, and force many out of CUNY.

Raising Needed Revenues Through Progressive Taxation

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Defend the Optional Retirement Program

- AFTER 10 YEARS OF SERVICE, the 3% pension contribution by ORP participants is assumed by the employer. Enacting this provision in 2007 made CUNY and SUNY more competitive. Eliminating it would make no contribution to closing this year’s budget gap because no savings would be realized for 10 years.

Support TAP Equity — Treat Students Fairly

- THE PSC SUPPORTS real TAP reform: expansion of part-time TAP, equity for financially independent students without dependents and pro-rated TAP to full-time students based on graduation requirements of 60 or 120 credits. The Executive Budget recommendations should reflect real reform by adopting these changes and maintaining full-time status at 12 credits, current performance standards and existing financial eligibility. These reforms would support students; the governor’s proposed changes would harm students, and force many out of CUNY.