Unemployed New Yorkers are among the New Yorkers flocking to CUNY, pushing enrollments to record highs over the past two years. In Fall 2008,

- Students represented 212 countries and spoke 193 languages
- 76% of CUNY undergraduates were students of color and 60% were women
- 38% came from households earning less than $20,000 a year
- 44% were the first generation to attend college
- 75% of first-time freshmen were graduates of NYC public high schools or GED programs

CUNY serves the communities disproportionately suffering from the “jobless recovery” and the economic crisis. The Fiscal Policy Institute has found that the unemployment rate among most low-income communities and communities of color in New York City is far above the City’s overall rate (10.1%). For black men, it is 19.9% and 15.7% for blacks overall. The Hispanic unemployment rate is 11.8%. The FPI found that the lowest income neighborhoods—those with median incomes from $20,000 to $30,000—had the highest average unemployment rate of 15.3%.

College is the best place for unemployed New Yorkers— not only for their own benefit, but for the State as a whole. Now is the time to fund New York’s future with a rational investment of planned incremental increases in State resources for CUNY.

(INVEST) don’t cut — State aid to CUNY to provide opportunity and economic revitalization.
(BUILD) CUNY with needed capital funds.
(PROVIDE) TAP equity for students.
(REJECT) “reforms” that shift costs on to students and reduce public accountability.
(TREAT) adjuncts seeking Unemployment Insurance fairly.
(SUPPORT) rational investment of State dollars in New York’s future.

The Executive Budget proposals for CUNY cut State support and shift the burden of funding the University onto students and their families through higher tuition. In these tough economic times, it is unfair to ask poor and middle-income New Yorkers to pay more for public higher education while simultaneously shrinking State support. There is nothing rational about the proposal for “rational tuition.”

CUNY is New York’s Future

The New York State Higher Education Commission, the “CUNY Compact” and the Obama Administration all call for greater public investment in public higher education, and all assert that investment is especially important now, at a moment of economic insecurity.

The PSC agrees. The best public policy is increasing public investment in CUNY to assure that all New Yorkers have access to quality, affordable public higher education and that the State is positioned for economic growth as conditions improve. The PSC calls for a “rational investment”—planned and gradual increases in State funding—to help CUNY recover from years of underfunding and best serve today’s students.
State Investment in CUNY is the Smarter Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>State Direct Aid - Declined 32.6%</th>
<th>City Support - Declined 25%</th>
<th>State Aid Plus TAP - Declined 33.5%</th>
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**Fund** – don’t cut — State aid to CUNY senior and community colleges. The enrollment increase at CUNY is completely unprecedented — over 60,000 students in ten years, or the equivalent of four new colleges.

The Governor’s proposed cuts come after the State has already cut $166 million from CUNY in the last two years and as CUNY enrolled the highest number of students in degree-granting programs ever. In the last two years, public higher education has borne 40% of the State’s cuts — a policy that’s not fair, not rational, and not smart.

**Restore** the $84.4 million proposed to be cut from the CUNY Senior College operating budget for FY 2011 (including $20.8 million in cuts to CUNY employees) and invest an additional $37 million to partially restore cuts imposed over the last two years. The PSC calls for a partial restoration of funding for additional full-time faculty lines and needed student services.

**Oppose** the Executive Budget recommendations to reduce all TAP grants by $75 and to enact harmful rules changes such as cutting grants to graduate students, reducing aid to independent students and not smart.

**Raise needed revenues.** The State can fund its current obligations and future investment by raising revenues from those sources most able to pay — not from CUNY students, who often come from low-income communities. (See the back of this brochure.) Progressive revenue options include temporarily reducing the Stock Transfer Tax Rebate by 20%, closing remaining corporate tax loopholes, allowing bulk purchasing of prescription drugs by the State and City governments, and increasing the State income tax on high-income earners.

**Reject** “reforms” that will privatize CUNY and SUNY by shifting the burden of funding from the State to students and families, granting university trustees broad authority to set tuition prices (including charging different tuition prices for different programs, degrees and schools) which eliminates the Legislature’s oversight, and allowing the trustees to sell off public assets.

1. The Governor’s “reforms” would allow CUNY and SUNY by shifting the burden of funding from the State to students and families, granting university trustees broad authority to set tuition prices (including charging different tuition prices for different programs, degrees and schools) which eliminates the Legislature’s oversight, and allowing the trustees to sell off public assets.

2. The Governor’s “reforms” would allow CUNY to raise tuition to a cap of 2.5 times the Higher Education Price Index (determined on a 3-year rolling average), which would be an increase of 10% this year. But history shows that New York State reduces public support when it increases tuition, unfairly shifting the burden to students and their families.

3. The Governor’s “reforms” would not guarantee that CUNY trustees the ability to set “differential tuition” rates for different programs or colleges — for example, charging more for an engineering degree than for a sociology degree. No tuition cap would apply. Over time, such a policy would create stratification of the funding to different programs and colleges, and the quality of facilities, resources and services for students. Charging different amounts to students will disproportionately harm low-income, minority and immigrant students, students who change majors, and students who start CUNY less prepared than some of their classmates.

**Treat CUNY adjuncts seeking Unemployment Insurance fairly.** Like other employees whose work is discontinuous or seasonal, adjunct faculty should be entitled to unemployment insurance during periods when they have no work — as they are in other states. Support S4123—A (Onorato)/A613—A (John).

References:
1. www1.cuny.edu/mu/chancellor/2006/03/10/the-cuny-compact/

Pat Arnow
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**RAISE** standards for maintaining eligibility. Without dependents, and raising the academic rules changes such as cutting grants to graduate students, reducing aid to independent students

**OPPOSE** the Executive Budget recommendations to reduce all TAP grants by $75 and to enact harmful rules changes such as cutting grants to graduate students, reducing aid to independent students without dependents, and raising the academic standards for maintaining eligibility.

**RESTORE** CUNY Community College Base Aid and make a down payment on funds lost to inflation. The PSC asks the Legislature to reject the Executive Budget proposal to cut $285 per FTE student from Community College Base Aid, restore the $130 cut per FTE student made in December 2009, and add $85 per FTE in new funds to keep pace with inflation and dramatic increases in community college enrollments. The PSC requests total State funding of $2,760/FTE for FY 2010/11, $500/FTE more than the Executive Budget.

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3. The Governor’s “reforms” would not guarantee against further erosion of State dollars invested in CUNY. The Governor’s “reforms” contradict the Commission on Higher Education and the “CUNY Compact” proposal. Over time, students will pay more – and get less.

**PROVIDE** adequate capital funding to maintain and expand CUNY colleges so they can absorb growing enrollments, and make critical capital maintenance repairs. The PSC supports CUNY’s request of $957.7 million.

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**CUNY Community College Funding by Source, Adjusted for Inflation (HEPI) and FTE Enrollment 1990/91 – 2009/10**

**Community College Base Aid, Restore the $130**

**CUNY Senior College Funding, by Source Adjusted for Inflation (HEPI) and FTE Enrollment 1990/91 – 2009/10**

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