



Andrew D. Hamilton
President

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February 1, 2022

Dear Members of the Legislature:

New York University (NYU) and private higher education institutions across New York look forward to continuing our long-standing partnership with the State, especially as we continue to collectively address the public health challenges facing our communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, the relationship between research, academics, industry, and government is essential, not only in enabling our students and researchers to discover new knowledge that will address future crises, but also in ensuring the continuity of our institutions' profoundly impactful efforts to serve our communities. As we look to the upcoming state budget, it is critical that educational opportunity and academic research continue to be prioritized by New York State.

I am grateful that the Governor's Executive Budget proposal for FY 2022-2023 prioritizes key financial aid programs, including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Opportunity Programs, both of which support access to higher education for underserved communities. I urge the Legislature to support this proposal and consider additional reforms by increasing the income threshold for TAP to \$110,000 (up from \$80,000). TAP eligibility has not changed in two decades, and an income threshold increase would open the program to an estimated 24,000 additional New Yorkers.

While I am also pleased to see the Governor's proposal continues to fund the "Bundy Aid" program at \$35.1 million, I urge the Legislature to further increase funding to \$60 million as this program has historically been funded at less than 20% of its statutorily authorized level. Bundy Aid helps private colleges and universities provide students with robust institutional aid and support programming, two effective tools in promoting degree completion. NYU utilizes our Bundy Aid funding (approximately \$4.5 million) for institutional financial aid that supports 172 undergraduate scholarships annually.

The Governor's proposal requires institutions receiving Bundy Aid to submit plans to increase faculty diversity to the State Education Department. NYU is committed to fostering research excellence while building an equitable, diverse and inclusive community. I hope the Legislature will consider establishing the Charles L. Reason Fellowship program to really address the pipeline issues that are at the core of faculty diversity. Such a program would provide academic research experiences and loan forgiveness opportunities for underrepresented college students pursuing careers as faculty members. This program would supplement our current efforts to foster diversity among our faculty.

In addition to allowing access to higher education for students of all backgrounds, the partnership between private higher education institutions and New York State has also enabled universities to become critical drivers of New York's local and regional economies. For decades, the New York State Center of Advanced Technology (CAT) and Center of Excellence (COE) programs have supported the transfer of research and innovations into the marketplace with a tremendous return on investment. These Centers have been an extremely successful tool in connecting industry and universities, bringing innovations to the marketplace, and fostering new and emerging research fields, including critical COVID-19 related research and solutions. NYU, along with our public and private colleagues statewide, urge the Legislature to increase funding for both the CAT and COE programs to \$1.5 million

per Center. Further, I hope the Legislature to increase funding to \$10 million for the Matching Grants program, a program which helps maximize the impact of federal research and development grants received by New York institutions of higher learning. Together, through these efforts, we can continue being a national leader in research and innovation.

Finally, few other issues are as urgent and consequential as the threat of climate change. We applaud the Governor and the Legislature for their continued efforts to decarbonize the State's energy sources and become a worldwide leader in sustainability. NYU sees itself as a leader on this issue in the higher education space, as we have committed to cutting our carbon emissions 50% by 2025 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2040. We hope the legislature will consider providing \$100 million in funding for a Green HeCap (Higher Education Capital Grant) program to fund green infrastructure projects at private campuses statewide. We stand ready to continue collaborating with the State in pursuing our shared goals in this area.

I have enclosed a summary describing all of NYU's legislative priorities. I look forward to building upon our partnership and continuing the State's long history of cultivating the growth and success of world-class institutions of higher learning for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew D. Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Andrew Hamilton
President
New York University