

Testimony to the City Council
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The City University of New York
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Good Morning. My name is Gillian Small and I am the Vice Chancellor for Research at The City University of New York. I appreciate the opportunity to talk briefly with you today about CUNY's participation as an academic partner in the Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) and the exceptional collaborative opportunities that it represents. We are proud to be part of such an outstanding partnership between the City & city agencies, prominent universities across the globe—including, of course, our leading partners NYU and NYU-Poly—as well as our industrial partners. As you may tell, I am not a native New Yorker myself - however after coming to the city some 28 years ago to do a postdoc at Rockefeller University and extending that stay to now - I feel like this **IS** my home and I am very excited about the City's initiatives to attract and support first class science campuses and projects in New York City.

CUNY's participation in CUSP is a natural progression of earlier collaborations between some of the partners. For example, a couple of years ago CUNY and NYU collaborated together with IBM on projects related to IBM's smarter cities initiative - in which we put teams together on projects addressing topics of smarter energy, smarter water, smarter transportation and security. In addition, we recently established a Center for Sustainably Integrated Building and Sites in partnership with Carnegie Mellon as part of the NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Program. These are just a couple of examples of past and existing collaborations between the CUSP partners, however, it the wealth of opportunities for educational innovation and groundbreaking research that are obvious among all the CUSP partners and the excitement is evident at each meeting when the CUSP partners come together.

At CUNY, several key research institutes confront issues that will be a focus at CUSP, including the CUNY Energy Institute at the forefront of research on clean energy technologies and next generation battery storage, an Environmental Crossroads Initiative that addresses issues around water and environmental issues related to the urban environment, the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities which studies urban consumption patterns and the impact of climate change on cities, and the Center for Advanced Research of Spatial Information that played a major role in developing the digital geographic base-map for the City of New York, called NYCMap that was instrumental in enabling the City to respond to the 9/11 crisis. Faculty and their students in these and other institutes at CUNY will participate in CUSP activities.

As many of you know, CUNY plays a crucial role in the life and economy of both New York City and State. As the nation's largest urban public university we serve approximately 270,000 full-time students another 200,000+ in our continuing and professional education programs. Our goal is to get a large number of these students exposed to and involved in projects related to the research at CUSP. A high proportion of CUNY students stay in the NY

City area – for example since 1981 67% of our graduates are still living in NYC -- and 82% live somewhere in New York State. One obvious implication of this finding is that the City and State reap the economic, civic, and social benefits associated with a college educated workforce and citizenry.

Our Chancellor, Matthew Goldstein, designated 2005 to 2015 as the Decade of Science at CUNY to help elevate the STEM disciplines at the University. We have dedicated significant resources toward this initiative and the CUSP partnership is a timely one as we strengthen education and research in science and engineering. CUSP will present many opportunities for CUNY faculty and students to become involved in collaborative research projects and educational initiatives. It will help educate and train the next generation of leaders who will be called upon to solve pressing problems confronting urban environments.

Thank you