



## **PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **To the Buffalo State College Council**

**April 19, 2011**

#### **STATE BUDGET UPDATE**

The Senate and Assembly gave final approval to the 2011-12 budget which incorporated many of the Governor's original Executive Budget recommendations with regard to higher education. The budget reflects a 10 percent year-to-year general fund reduction for all state agency operations, with comparable reductions for the State and City University Systems, although in some instances, most notably for SUNY hospitals, the reduction in State support is much higher than 10%.

Included with this report is SUNY's first attempt at an allocation model for the latest round of budget reductions. System Administration is presenting four different scenarios at this time. Following are the net reduction amounts that would be incurred by Buffalo State for each scenario:

- Scenario "A" (Proportionate to State Tax Appropriation)                      \$2,246,700  
This is the result we hoping for: proportionate to state tax appropriation reduced by mandatory increase funding (salary increases, inflation, utilities).
- Scenario "B" (Proportionate to Total Financial Plan)                              \$3,768,600  
This is how the reduction was handled last summer and represents a de-facto shift of tuition from the Comprehensive Colleges like Buffalo State to the University Centers and hospitals.

- Scenario “C” (Blended Approach – Average of “A” & “B”)                   \$3,007,700  
This still provides an advantaging the Centers and hospitals, but is designed to mitigate the pain to other SUNY institutions.
- Scenario “D” (Reduction Capped at 4.9%)   \$3,923,500  
This scenario represents an attempt to shift even more resources to the hospitals. Essentially the plan we were most concerned about.

Although the Executive Budget included legislation intended to enhance SUNY’s ability to engage in public-private partnerships, and grant operational/management efficiencies through a flexible procurement system, the Enacted Budget only includes a modified version of the procurement component of this legislation which allows a post-audit regime only for the purchases of goods. The Budget does not include the UB 2020 legislation and other SUNY flexibility items, including a tuition policy. The agreement was that these items will be part of the agenda of a summit before the end of legislative session.

On April 5, 2011 Assembly Member Crystal Peoples-Stokes introduced a bill to establish a rational tuition policy for SUNY. This legislation would allow for increases not to exceed 5 ½ % annually. The legislation also proposes that the revenue generated would be used solely by SUNY and not swept to cover other State budgetary items. The resolution passed by the College Council at the March meeting was important to the introduction of this legislation. The full language of the legislation is included in your Board Book.

**PRESIDENT’S MEDAL AND CHANCELLOR’S AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Three graduating students will receive the Buffalo State College President’s Medal at commencement ceremonies on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Stephanie Berberick and Watoii Rabii will receive the President’s Award for Excellence as undergraduate students and Justin Wojcik will be recognized for his accomplishments as a graduate student. Each of these students will deliver the student address at one of the three commencement ceremonies.

On April 5<sup>th</sup> Stephanie, Watoii, and Justin, along with two other students, Kathryn Boughton and Christopher Guidarelli received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence at a ceremony held in Albany, New York. This award recognizes those who have integrated academic excellence with achievement in areas such as athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, entrepreneurship, leadership, and career achievement. Award recipients will also be recognized at the May commencement ceremonies. Brief biographies for these students are also included in the appendix of the board booklet for your review.

## **CAMPUS EVENTS AND CEREMONIES**

### **Receptions for Admitted Students**

On March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Vice President Payne and I hosted receptions for admitted students in New York City and Long Island.

### **Spring Open House**

We hosted prospective students and their families for the Spring Open House on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Honors Convocation**

Students that have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher after completing at least forty-five credit hours of coursework will be recognized at the annual Honors Convocation on Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Student Leadership Awards Ceremony**

On April 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm in the Burchfield Penney Art Center, we will recognize many of our outstanding students who have demonstrated a strong record of leadership, scholarship, and service to the college community. Award recipients to be recognized include Chancellors Award and President's Medal winners, students listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, many humanitarian awards. The members of the College Council are invited to join us at this celebration.

### **Student Research and Creativity Celebration**

On April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> we will hold our annual Student Research and Creativity Celebration. In the last 13 years, this has become one of the institution's landmark campus events, and is a true celebration of our students' talent and hard work.

### **Foundation Scholarship Gala**

The Buffalo State College Foundation will host its annual Scholarship Gala on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Connecticut Street Armory. Because of the gala, each year, the Buffalo State College Foundation awards about 200 scholarships to deserving students in the All College Honors program. This year's co-chairs are alumnus Anthony J. Baynes, '79, CEO of the A. J. Baynes Group, and Louis P. Ciminelli, Chairman and CEO of LP Ciminelli Inc. Presenting sponsors are LP Ciminelli, M&T Bank, A. J. Baynes Group, and Niagara's Finest Inns.

### **Commencement**

The 139<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremonies will occur on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> in the Sports Arena at the College. Thomas K. Lytle '81 Vice President of Promotions at Island Def Jam (formerly Island Records and Def Jam Recordings), Stephen V. Musolino, '76, a member of the scientific staff at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York, and Bob Williams '70 Vice President of Communications for the NCAA will be recognized with Buffalo State College Distinguished Alumna Awards.

### **SUNY INITIATIVES**

#### **Critical Issues in Higher Education Conferences**

Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and her staff plan to launch a series of conferences throughout the state to address current and critical issues in higher education. On September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> the conference will take place in Buffalo. The focus will be universities as economic drivers. I have included a announcement with this report for your information and will keep you apprised as more details become available.