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## Special Announcement

To: The John Jay Community  
From: Mindy Bockstein, Executive Director of External Affairs  
Date: February 26, 2015  
RE: New York State Budget Update and Engagement

The fiscal year 2016 New York State Executive Budget is currently under review by the New York State Legislature, including proposed funding for the colleges of The City University of New York and programs to advance academic excellence and student success.

Please visit [www.supportcuny.org](http://www.supportcuny.org) to communicate to legislators the importance of investing in public higher education. As Chancellor James B. Milliken noted in his statement on the executive budget; "In the weeks to come, we look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature on the details of the budget, as partners in providing the high-quality, effective educational opportunities and preparation necessary to build a strong and productive New York future."

As reflected in CUNY's 2015-2016 State Operating Budget Priorities document commonly referred to as the [Gold Sheet](#), the University is requesting additional aid for the following:

- **Academic Excellence - \$8 million for online and international education.**
- **Student Success Programs - \$11 million for programs such as ASAP, SEEK, College Discovery, Black Male Initiative, Single Stop, Child Care, Veteran Services and CUNY LEADS.**
- **Mandatory Cost Needs - \$32.9 million is needed for fringe benefits, salary step increases and collective bargaining costs.**
- **Capital Project - \$656 Million**
- **Critical Maintenance Needs at the Campuses - \$231 Million**

Your assistance is needed in supporting public higher education in order that CUNY continues to provide an affordable, high quality academic experience for our students. Please contact legislators via your personal computer or smart phone, while the budget process is under way by visiting [www.supportcuny.org](http://www.supportcuny.org). For your convenience, letters have been drafted to focus on CUNY priorities and are customized to express different perspectives (e.g., alumni, veteran, faculty, staff, parent, ADA Tap, child care, etc.). You may also craft your own letter. In addition to sending a communication, we ask that you encourage colleagues, peers, family and friends to generate emails of support for this critical funding. State leaders by law must pass the budget by April 1, 2015. The time to voice your interests and concerns is now! Thank you for your support.