

President Shirley Strum Kenny statement on Stony Brook University inclusion in S2020 and A2020, flexibility legislation for University of Buffalo.

As President of Stony Brook University, I applaud the University of Buffalo's proposed State legislation that would create a pilot program to attain the goals that I and the other SUNY University Center Presidents all seek: a rational tuition policy, with regular increases and an acknowledgment that it costs more to educate individuals at research universities; the ability to keep the revenue generated by tuition; spending and contracting flexibility as recommended by the Commission on Higher Education which will save costs in the long run, speeding up capital projects and purchases in order to better serve our communities and students in a timely manner; allowing access to market capital which would enable the campuses to build infrastructure in the areas most needed by the State for economic growth, such as research and development centers and conference center hotels; the ability to lease or purchase land and facilities, optimizing the space we now have to a greater benefit for the communities in which we reside.

I am asking that Stony Brook be included in this groundbreaking legislation which is long overdue and necessary if we are to maintain accessibility and quality and remain in the forefront with our peer institutions across the nation. None of our peers are subject to the bureaucratic processes that New York State requires of us.

Stony Brook University has an economic impact of \$4.7B on the Long Island Region. The proposed legislation would create a pilot program at University of Buffalo, which would then suspend the implementation of any of these special provisions for the other University Centers for at least five years. This would impede Stony Brook's continued upward trajectory and limit our continued success as an economic driver.

My colleagues at UAlbany and Binghamton University are also requesting inclusion in the legislation and they are seeking the support of their respective delegations to the New York State Legislature.

You can help by writing to Senate Majority Leader, Malcolm Smith and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, requesting that Stony Brook University be included in the provisions of S2020 (Senate) and A2020 (Assembly). Their contact information can be found on their respective web sites:

<http://www.senate.state.ny.us/senatehomepage.nsf/home?openform>
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/>