

VI. THE FUTURE OF THE SUNY CAPITAL PLAN

The facility needs of campuses constructed in years past do not often meet the requirements of today. The constant effort to renovate facilities to make them suitable to meet today's demands requires a mix of renovations, additions, and new construction. The 2008-2012 SUNY Capital Plan saw a concerted effort towards this goal, but the continued demands on both State resources and SUNY require constant rethinking and reworking of universally accepted approaches.

Legislation enacted in 2011 has allowed SUNY to move towards a more efficient and sustainable methodology of planning and spending. The 2011-12 State Budget included language that exempted SUNY and Fund contracts from the pre-audit process performed by the Office of the State Comptroller and the Attorney General's Office. This has reduced the overall length of time on SUNY/Fund projects by one to two months, thereby putting assets to work for the benefit of students sooner. This exemption has been extended through 2021.

As one of the larger components of the entire State's overall capital program, and as a major component of the State's physical assets, the continued good stewardship of SUNY's educational and hospital facilities is of paramount importance. Capital investment in SUNY has the immediate and direct effect of creating thousands of high-paying construction and construction-related jobs throughout New York State. It has also demonstrably transformed communities and helped revitalize urban areas. SUNY's world-class faculty and researchers contribute millions of dollars through research and commercializing innovation, facilitated by modern facilities. Within the walls of SUNY facilities, SUNY has educated millions of students since its beginning, the majority of whom have remained in New York and become part of New York's workforce. Unmistakably, SUNY is a driving force in New York's economy and capital investment is the catalyst.