



SUNY Student Assembly

List of Federal Priorities

Ensuring college affordability to build a 21st century workforce

- Maintain the maximum Federal Pell Grant award and reinstate the allowance of receiving up to two consecutive Pell Grant awards during a single award yearⁱ.
- Increase the annual loan limits for subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loans for undergraduate and graduate students and reinstate subsidized loans for graduate studentsⁱⁱ.

Increasing research funding to strengthen American competitiveness

- Direct higher levels of science and engineering grant funding to New York State to increase our share of higher education degrees conferred in these fields^{iii iv}.
- Strengthen New York's R&D capacity by providing incentives for innovative partnerships between institutions of public higher education, businesses and the federal government^v.
- Promote expanded access to research funding for community colleges to ensure smooth transition to four-year programs.

ⁱ Current status of the Federal Pell Grant Program:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PellGrants.jsp>

ⁱⁱ Changes to federal student loan program: <http://www.loyno.edu/financialaid/federal-student-loan-changes-2012-2013>

ⁱⁱⁱ S&E degrees make up just 29.8% of higher education degrees conferred in New York State, below the national average of 32.1% and trailing states like California (43.9%) and New Jersey (36.1%). <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind10/c8/c8s2o17.htm>

^{iv} S&E degrees make up well over half of all higher education degrees conferred in Japan (63%), China (53%), and Singapore (51%). <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind10/c2/c2h.htm>

^v New York State's share of the nation's academic R&D spending has declined from 10% in 1980 to 7.9% in 2008, at a projected cost of almost 30,000 jobs, despite having the largest single public higher education system in the United States. In fiscal year 2009-2010, federal funding accounted for over 60% of SUNY research funding. <http://www.suny.edu/communications/pdf/Hogan%20Report%20on%20RF.pdf> (pp. 15-18, 83-84)