



OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

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April 16, 2009

The Honorable John M. McHugh
U.S. House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-3223

Dear Congressman McHugh:

I read with interest your efforts to encourage members of the New York State Congressional delegation to sign a letter to Governor David A. Patterson urging restoration of \$118 million in direct state support to the State University of New York from the funds made available by the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I wish you great success in securing the signatures of all 29 congressional members, since the loss of these funds directly impact our students -- the majority who come from across New York State.

SUNY Plattsburgh has implemented essential cost-saving measures as we revise our management plan at the direction of the SUNY Central Administration. We've instituted a hiring freeze on all vacant positions at SUNY Plattsburgh and are reviewing many options to reduce our budget by \$5.7 million. While we are hoping to minimize possible reductions in our full-time staff through retirements and other proposed cost-saving measures, I can tell you that part-time employees (including student workers) and adjunct faculty will be severely impacted.

All this is occurring even as our applications for admission to SUNY Plattsburgh continue to increase and as more and more students and their parents show greater interest in public colleges and universities, such as Plattsburgh and other SUNY campuses. Now is not the time for New York State to turn its back on its public higher education sector.

In addition to cuts in state funding to SUNY, tuition was increased this spring to provide needed financial support for the campuses. However, each campus is allowed to retain only 10 percent of the increase while the remaining 90 percent goes into the State's general coffers.

I hope that you and the other members of the New York State Congressional delegation can persuade the Governor and the other legislative leaders to restore funding to SUNY. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ettling".

John Ettling
President