



DAEMEN COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

February 27, 2017

Daemen College
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in addressing a potential threat to Daemen College and, in fact, to all private colleges throughout the state of New York.

As you know, Governor Andrew Cuomo has advanced a proposal to provide so-called “free tuition” to any student who attends a public college or university in the state of New York, but not a private college. Equally if not more disturbing is that he has proposed to penalize colleges that raise their tuition more than a specified amount a year; he would do this by withdrawing an institution’s state-provided financial aid that would have gone to students.

While we all applaud the Governor’s focus on making college more affordable, his plan as proposed would severely damage the private-college sector of our state, including Daemen College.

Many of you have asked if there is anything you can do to address this threat. There is. The Governor’s plan cannot be implemented without the support of the legislature. Experts inform us that substantial opposition to the proposal in the form of letters from constituents can help block the proposal. I am asking that you take some time to write a letter to your state legislators.

Rather than give you a template letter (these tend to be ignored by the legislators), I am providing you with some points that you can include in a letter. I hope that you will take the time now to send a letter to your state senator and, especially, assembly member using some or all of these points:

- Even very small colleges contribute millions of dollars in economic impact to their local communities. If a college is forced to close because of a precipitous drop in enrollment (as they are every year across the nation), this would have a severe negative impact on the local economy.
- The private-college sector graduates more students (at every level) and at a higher rate than the public-college sector. Endangering private colleges will likely result in fewer, not more, students ultimately earning college degrees.

Faculty and Staff
February 27, 2017
Page Two

- New York is one of the few states that support a state-wide program of financial aid to supplement federal aid to students, the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). The most equitable way for the Governor to help reduce the cost of a college education throughout the state is to increase funding for the existing and proven TAP, giving students and their families a “choice” of schools.
- Private colleges depend principally on tuition in order to remain financially viable; they do not receive additional financial support as public colleges do from the state. Penalizing private colleges that raise their tuition above some arbitrarily determined level is unfair to the entire private sector and further endangers these institutions. It is a form of price fixing that would never be tolerated in other segments of society.

Please urge your legislators to support an increase in TAP assistance to students to promote school choice, rather than the Governor’s plan to assist only public institutions, and, importantly, urge them not to institute penalties on colleges that raise their tuition rates.

Attached is a more detailed fact sheet that you can also draw on in composing your letter. Also attached is a list of legislators and their addresses. The legislators are presently considering the state budget, so please send your letter at your earliest convenience. By the way, while you can certainly mention that you are affiliated with a private college, there is no reason why you need to. You should, however, mention that you are a constituent in the member’s district.

Finally, if you simply do not have the time to compose a targeted letter, you can still help: simply visit a Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities website that will generate a letter that will automatically go to your local legislators: <https://www.limitlesslearningny.org/take-action/>

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important advocacy for our college and, most importantly, our students.

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson
President



IMPROVE TAP TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND COMPLETION

It's About Student Choice

The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) in New York urges the Legislature to reject the 2017-18 Executive Budget proposals to impose price controls on private institutions and provide “free tuition” at the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY). These proposals will disadvantage private institutions, seriously compromise the role colleges and universities play in supporting local economic growth and, most importantly, shift student choice from best fit to finances.

The Executive Budget proposes funding for additional scholarship support for New York State residents, but only if they attend SUNY or CUNY. **State student aid should be based on need and nothing else.**

Further, any college or university that raises tuition and fee rates above a government-regulated threshold would see Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) eligibility and Direct “Bundy” Aid for their students eliminated. This would harm students of modest means who benefit from the financial aid made possible by TAP, Bundy and tuition revenue. (The trustees of institutions of higher education in New York State seek to avoid tuition increases in order to remain competitive and attract the most qualified students. It is important to remember that tuition supports student aid, campus diversity, educational quality, career preparation, state-of-the-art learning technology and facilities, as well as financial stability.)

If Affordability is the Goal, New York Should:

- Raise the TAP maximum award to \$6,500 (from \$5,165);
- Increase the TAP minimum award to \$1,000 (from \$500);
- Expand eligibility by extending the income ceiling to \$125,000 (from \$80,000);
- Create a new program of Graduate Tuition Assistance; and
- Expand proven opportunity programs such as the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), the Science and Technology Entry Programs (STEP/C-STEP); and the Liberty Partnerships Program.

Why It Matters:

New York State is unique in the quality, breadth and scope of its private, not-for-profit colleges and universities. These campuses educate nearly 500,000 students a year, and often

are the single largest employer in their communities. At a time when the state is losing population, independent colleges and universities help keep New Yorkers here at home for higher education, with many campuses recruiting the majority of their students from within 150 miles.

New York State's approach to higher education is a bargain for taxpayers. A lower percentage of the state budget is devoted to higher education than what is devoted in all but seven states. This is because our largely privately financed not-for-profit campuses produce about half of New York's baccalaureate degrees (51%) and the overwhelming majority of graduate degrees (72% of master's degrees and 79% of doctoral and first professional degrees). This is an excellent example of public/private partnership at its best.

Consider:

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job seekers wishing to obtain entry-level positions in 11 of the 15 fastest growing occupations through 2024 will need to have some form of higher education. Occupations that require more education are projected to grow at faster rates than those that require less postsecondary experience. New York State's private, not-for-profit colleges and universities are ready to meet projected growth in major occupational areas.
- Any effort to provide supplemental financial aid must treat all New Yorkers the same, regardless of whether they want to attend one of our 100+ private, not-for-profit campus or a public campus.
- Nearly 300,000 New York students choose private higher education as their best opportunity for academic and career success.
- More than 80,500 of our students qualify for TAP, and an expansion could serve as many as 21,000 more.
- New York's Independent Sector provided \$5.1 billion in student assistance in 2014-15, leading to an average net tuition of \$12,700, well below "sticker" price. Since the Great Recession, nearly every new dollar in tuition revenue has gone for financial aid.
- The Independent Sector led degree completion with a 70.1 percent six-year graduation rate in 2015
- Each year, more Black and Hispanic students earn baccalaureate and graduate degrees from private, not-for-profit institutions in New York than anywhere else in the state.
- New York taxpayers provide approximately \$650 in support per student in private, not-for-profit colleges and universities, compared to \$8,830 for each student in the SUNY or CUNY system.
- Private, non-profit institutions are economic engines — particularly in Upstate New York communities — accounting for 400,000 jobs and almost \$80 billion in annual economic activity across the state. New York's private, not-for-profit colleges and universities pay \$2 billion in taxes annually.

**State Assembly Members of Western
New York**

Raymond Walter -- District 146

550 LOB
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4618
Fax: 518-455-5023
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-634-1895
walterr@nyassembly.gov

Monica P. Wallace -- District 143

LOB Room 821
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5921
Fax: 518-455-3962
2562 Walden Avenue
Suite 102
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716-686-0080
Fax: 716-686-3752
wallacem@nyassembly.gov

Robin Schimminger -- District 140

LOB 847
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4767
3514 Delaware Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14217
716-873-2540
SchimmR@nyassembly.gov

Sean Ryan -- District 149

LOB 540
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4886
Fax: 518-455-4890
936 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
716-885-9630
Fax: 716-885-9636
RyanS@nyassembly.gov

Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes -- District 141

LOB 625
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5005
425 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
716-897-9714
PeopleC@nyassembly.gov

Michael J. Norris -- District 144

LOB 718
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4601
8180 Main Street
Clarence, NY 14221
716-839-4691
norrism@nyassembly.gov

Angelo J. Morinello -- District 145

LOB 721
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5284
800 Main Street, Suite 2C
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
716-282-6062
morinelloa@nyassembly.gov

Michael P. Kearns -- District 142

431 LOB
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4691
1074 Union Rd
West Seneca, NY 14224
716-608-6099
Fax: 716-671-8291
kearnsm@nyassembly.gov

Stephen Hawley -- District 139

Room 329 LOB
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5811
121 N. Main St.
Suite 100
Albion, NY 14411
585-589-5780
HawleyS@nyassembly.gov

David DiPietro -- District 147

LOB 543
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5314
411 Main St.
E. Aurora, NY 14052
716-655-0951
Fax: 716-655-0970
DiPietroD@nyassembly.gov

State Senators of Western New York

Honorable Patrick Gullivan District 59

District Office
2721 Transit Road Suite 116
Elma, NY 14059
Phone: 716-656-8544
Fax: 716-656-8961

Albany Office
Legislative Office Building Room 512
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-3471
Fax: 518-426-6949
Email Address:
gullivan@nysenate.gov

Honorable Michael H. Ranzenhofer District 61

Albany Office
188 State Street Room 609, Legislative Office
Building
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-3161
Fax: (518) 426-6963

District Office
8203 Main Street Suite 4
Williamsville, NY 14221
Phone: (716) 631-8695 / (585) 454-0322
Fax: (716) 634-4321
ranz@nysenate.gov

Honorable Robert G. Ortz District 62

Albany Office
Legislative Office Building, Room 815
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2024
Fax: (518) 426-6987

District Office
175 Walnut Street, Suite 6
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: 716-434-0680
Fax: 716-434-3297
Ortz@nysenate.gov

Honorable Catharine Young District 57

District Office
700 W. State Street Westgate Plaza
Olean, NY 14760
Phone: 716-372-4901
Fax: 716-372-5740

Albany Office
428 Capitol
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-3563
Fax: 518-426-6905
cyoung@nysenate.gov

Honorable Chris Jacobs District 60

District Office
65 Court St. (Mahoney State Office Bldg.), Rm 213
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 716-854-8705

Albany Office
Legislative Office Building Room 947
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518 455-3240
jacobs@nysenate.gov

Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy District 63

Albany Office
Legislative Office Building, Room 506
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-2426
Fax: 518-426-6851

District Office
2239 South Park Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14220
Phone: 716-826-2683
Fax: 716-826-2793
kennedy@nysenate.gov