



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## OVER 350 STUDENT GROUPS JOIN STATEWIDE LETTER TO GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

*NYPIRG unveils coalition of hundreds of groups calling for a tuition freeze and increased state funding to CUNY and SUNY*

**Albany, NY** – This week, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) unveiled a coalition of over three hundred and fifty student groups and organizations from colleges and universities across the state calling on the New York State Legislature and the Governor to increase state aid to the City University of New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY), reject an extension of the “rational tuition” hikes, and freeze tuition at 2015-2016 academic year rates.

As students are facing five more years of tuition hikes, thousands are speaking out. In December, student groups from across the state delivered 28,000 petitions in our Capitol urging the Governor and Legislature to freeze tuition. In February, over 450 college students, faculty and staff converged on Albany for meetings with close to 100 legislators. And today, over 350 student groups come together again in a coalition letter to our elected leaders.

Part of the SUNY 2020 legislation, signed into law in 2011, allowed SUNY and CUNY to raise tuition by \$300 per year over the course of five years. According to SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, the law enacted by Governor Cuomo would institute “fair, predictable and responsible” tuition increases, allowing students and their families to plan over five years. However, the state’s so-called “rational tuition” policy has caused tuition at public colleges to skyrocket – increasing by over 30% in just five years.

At the same time, state funding for SUNY and CUNY has remained largely flat over the last several years, even while the cost to maintain SUNY and CUNY's existing services has increased by nearly \$200 million. The state has made up the difference using tuition dollars. So-called "rational tuition" has merely shifted the burden of operating New York's public college from the state to college students and their families. What's more, the Governor has shifted \$485 million from CUNY in his Executive Budget. Without a new source of revenue this shift becomes a cut.

This year, the Assembly and Senate budget proposals prioritize higher education by including a tuition freeze and a real Maintenance of Effort (MOE) provision to provide stable funding for CUNY and SUNY. The Assembly proposal goes one step further by fully restoring the \$485 million funding cut included in the Executive Budget. We call on the Governor and Assembly and Senate leadership to maintain the tuition freeze, MOE, and full funding for both university systems in the final State Budget.

"As New York has cut its investment in public higher education, students have been forced to pick up the tab. Hundreds of student groups from Buffalo to Long Island have joined together to say enough is enough. With New York slated to end the year in a surplus, the final budget must freeze tuition and fully fund SUNY and CUNY." – **Alex Bornemisza, Chairperson, New York Public Interest Research Group and SUNY Buffalo State College Student**

"New York Students Rising signed on to the tuition freeze letter because with these tuition increases, higher education is becoming a privilege in a country where it has been made into a necessity. These increases are not necessary. They are convenient to the state, as it is a way for them to cut funding and instead put the burden onto students. It's blocking access to marginalized groups of people and discouraging students from pursuing higher education. We believe higher education is a human right and should be affordable and accessible to all and any prospective students."- **Nicole Strifolino, Organizer, New York Students Rising, SUNY New Paltz Student**

"Governor Cuomo's proposed tuition hikes and \$485 million budget cut to CUNY attack the American dream we embody and the unique mission of CUNY. Even with the budget deadline a few days away, it is not too late for Governor Cuomo and the state legislators to turn the tide of austerity currently sweeping the nation and drowning students in debt and tuition hikes. Now is the time for investment to ensure a quality and affordable higher education. Now is the time to freeze tuition and increase state aid to our public higher education institutions."- **Joseph Awadje, University Student Senate Chairperson & CUNY trustee, Brooklyn College Graduate Student.**

"Being a college student in current times is exhausting in almost every aspect. In almost every representation of typical college life, we are construed as poor and overworked -- but now this is true more than ever. Many of us attending CUNY already work to be able to afford food, the Metrocards that take us to our classes and jobs, and struggle to pay their rent or their share of bills. So our question to the politicians claiming to represent us with our "best interests" at heart is, why? Why raise tuition when students are already saddled with thousands of dollars in loans and hundreds of hours of often minimum wage pay to afford college? Why make higher education more unattainable? Why change what CUNY fundamentally is - an affordable, good quality higher education for all. These questions and more are the reason that we, the

Undergraduate Student Government of the City College of New York, stand with NYPIRG and our peers and colleagues within CUNY to fight against tuition hikes and are demanding a tuition freeze." – **Tammie David, Vice President of Public Affairs, City College of New York Undergraduate Student Government**

“The recent efforts by Governor Cuomo to destabilize CUNY are evidence of his unprincipled and untrustworthy position as a politician. The recent comments from his office calling the budget cuts "union propaganda" show that students and faculty must work together to preserve the largest urban university system in the United States, which is the City University of New York. The New York Water Environment Association, City College Student Chapter have signed on to stop cuts to CUNY included in Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget.” -- **Lawrence Vulis, President, New York Water Environment Association, City College Student Chapter**

## ENDORSED

Full Name of Club/Organization	Campus
289 Radio	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Abara Capuera	City College of New York
Acappella Group	Brooklyn College
Accounting Club	Brooklyn College
Accounting Society	Brooklyn College
African Student Association	Borough of Manhattan Community College
African Student Organization	Binghamton University
Allied Health Care Professionals	Queensborough Community College
Alpha Epsilon Pi	SUNY New Paltz
Alpha Phi Delta	Brooklyn College
Alpha Sigma Society	Hunter College
Alpha Xi Delta Sorority	Brooklyn College
Alpha Phi Omega	SUNY Cortland
Amnesty International	Queens College
American Red Cross Club	Queensborough Community College
American Society of Civil Engineers	City College of New York
Amnesty International	Nassau Community College
Anime + Manga Corp	Brooklyn College
Anime Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Archery Club	City College of New York
Armenian Club	Queens College
ASAP	Queensborough Community College
Asian Society	Queensborough Community College
Asian Student Union	Binghamton University
Association of Latino American Students	Queens College

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Association of Latino Professionals For America	Queens College
Astronomy Club	Nassau Community College
Astronomy Club	City College of New York
Bachelor of Arts/Medical Doctor Student Committee	Brooklyn College
Bangladesh Student Association	Queensborough Community College
Bangladeshi Club	Hunter College
Bare Bones Theatre Company	SUNY New Paltz
BC American Red Cross Chapter	Brooklyn College
BC Islamic Society	Brooklyn College
BC Muslim Women Educational Initiative	Brooklyn College
BC Muslim Women's Education Initiative	Brooklyn College
BC Slam Team	Brooklyn College
Best Buddies	SUNY Buffalo State College
BIB Club	NYC College of Technology
Biology Club	Queensborough Community College
Black Active Minds	SUNY Buffalo State College
Black Male Initiative Club	NYC College of Technology
Black Student Union	Brooklyn College
Black Student Union	SUNY Cortland
Black Student Union	SUNY New Paltz
Black Tape Company	SUNY Buffalo State College
Blaze Dance Team	Brooklyn College
BMCC Debate Team	Borough of Manhattan Community College
BMCC Sociology Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
BMCC Writer's Guild	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Brooklyn Jhoom Dance Team	Brooklyn College
BU Fine Arts Society	Binghamton University
CAMEO	Bronx Community College
Campus Crusade for Christ	Queens College
Campus Roleplaying Anime Gaming Guild	SUNY Buffalo State College
Caribbean Student Association	Binghamton University
Caribbean Student Organization	SUNY Buffalo State College
Caribbean Student Organization	Nassau Community College
Caribbean Student Organization	SUNY New Paltz
Caribbean Student Union	Brooklyn College
Caribbean Student Union	Hunter College
Caribbean Students Association	Queens College
Caribbean Students Association	City College of New York
Caribbean-African Students Association	College of Staten Island
Caribbean Student Association	SUNY Cortland

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Caribbean Students Association	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Catholic Newman Center	Queens College
CCNY Aerospace	City College of New York
CCNY Dream Team	City College of New York
CERRU	Queens College
Charles Drew Minority Pre-Health Society	Binghamton University
Chartered Institute of Building	City College of New York
Cheerleading Club	City College of New York
Chemistry Club	SUNY Cortland
Chemistry Club	Queensborough Community College
Chess Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Chi Alpha Christian Club	College of Staten Island
Chinese Christian Fellowship	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Chinese Student Association	Queens College
Circle K International	SUNY New Paltz
CityTech Connect	NYC College of Technology
Club India	Hunter College
Coalition of the Revitalization of Asian American Studies Program	Hunter College
College in the Wood College Council	Binghamton University
College Progressives	Binghamton University
Communi-Tea	SUNY New Paltz
Computer Science Club	College of Staten Island
Cortland Writers Association	SUNY Cortland
Crochet and Knitting Club	Hunter College
CSTEP Club	Queensborough Community College
CUNY Service Corps	NYC College of Technology
CUNY University Student Senate	CUNY-wide
Dance Association	SUNY New Paltz
Debate Union at Syracuse University	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Delta Phi Epsilon	Queens College
Democracy Matters	SUNY New Paltz
Democracy Matters	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Design, Build, Fly	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Dickinson Town Council	Binghamton University
Digital Fabrication Club	NYC College of Technology
Disney Club	College of Staten Island
Divest ESF	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Dominican Student Movement (M.E.D.O)	Brooklyn College
Drama Society Club	Queensborough Community College
Dumbledore's Army	Hunter College
Dumbledore's Army of New Paltz	SUNY New Paltz

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Economic Club	Hunter College
Economics Club	SUNY Cortland
Environmental Club	Queens College
Environmental Task Force	SUNY New Paltz
Epic Glee	SUNY New Paltz
Escape Bus Company	Binghamton University
Ethnic Media Collective	Queens College
Fashion Marketing Society	Brooklyn College
Fighting Game Association	Hunter College
First Robotics	City College of New York
First Year Players	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
FLIGHT CREW	Queens College
FMS- Fashion Marketing Society	Brooklyn College
Foreign Language Society	Queensborough Community College
Freenew at SUNY Purchase	SUNY Purchase College
Frisbee Club Sport	SUNY Cortland
Game Development Club	College of Staten Island
Gamma Nu Delta	City College of New York
Gamma Omega Delta Fraternity Incorporated	Queens College
Garden Club	NYC College of Technology
Gay Men's Riggio	Hunter College
Gay-Straight Alliance	College of Staten Island
Grad Student Association	Hunter College
Graduate Student Organization	Brooklyn College
Greek Club	Brooklyn College
Guinean Student Alliance	NYC College of Technology
Guitar Club Sign Up	Binghamton University
Haitian Club	Queensborough Community College
Haitian Student Association	Binghamton University
Haitian Student Association	Hunter College
Haitian Student Association (QCHSA)	Queens College
Hakuna Matata	Queens College
Harlem Hospital Physician Assistant Program	City College of New York
Hillel	College of Staten Island
Hillel at SUNY Purchase	SUNY Purchase College
Hillside Village Council	Binghamton University
Hindu Student Association	Hunter College
Hindu Students Association	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Hinman College Council	Binghamton University
Human Services Club	NYC College of Technology
Hunter Sustainability Project	Hunter College

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
IDEAS for Binghamton	Binghamton University
Indian Club	Queens College
Interact Club	Nassau Community College
International Awareness	SUNY Cortland
International Business Constitution	College of Staten Island
International Student Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
International Students Club	Queensborough Community College
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship	Hunter College
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship	Nassau Community College
Investment Club	City College of New York
IOC	Bronx Community College
Jaws Club	NYC College of Technology
Jewish Students Organization	Nassau Community College
Juvenile Urban Multicultural Program (Jump Nation)	Binghamton University
Kappa Kappa Gamma	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Kappa Sigma	Brooklyn College
Korea Campus Crusade for Christ in America	Queens College
Korean American Students Association	Binghamton University
La Familia Latina	SUNY Cortland
La Tertulia Cultural Club	Queens College
Latin American Student Union	Binghamton University
Law & Paralegal Club	NYC College of Technology
Leadership House	SUNY Cortland
LGBTA	Brooklyn College
Luna	Nassau Community College
Make A Difference Club	Nassau Community College
Manual Marques	NYC College of Technology
Marketing Club	College of Staten Island
Meditation Club	SUNY New Paltz
MEDO	Brooklyn College
Men of Color Scholastic Society	Binghamton University
Men's Club Baseball	SUNY New Paltz
Men's Club Lacrosse	SUNY New Paltz
Model United Nations Club	SUNY Cortland
Mountainview College Council	Binghamton University
Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority Incorporated	SUNY Buffalo State College
Multicultural Awareness Club	NYC College of Technology
Music Club	NYC College of Technology
Muslim Student Association	Bronx Community College
Muslim Student Association	Borough of Manhattan Community College

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Muslim Student Association	Hunter College
Muslim Students Association	Binghamton University
Muslim Students Association	Queens College
NAACP	SUNY Buffalo State College
National Association of Black Accountants	Queens College
National Society of Black Engineers	City College of New York
National Society of Black Engineers	NYC College of Technology
Native American Students Organization	SUNY Buffalo State College
NCC Breakers	Nassau Community College
NCC Outing Club	Nassau Community College
New Paltz Outing Club	SUNY New Paltz
New Paltz Climate Club	SUNY New Paltz
New Paltz Dance Association	SUNY New Paltz
New Paltz Players	SUNY New Paltz
New Paltz Powerlifting Club	SUNY New Paltz
New Paltz Pride	SUNY New Paltz
New York State Israel Public Affairs Committee (N.Y.S.I.P.A.C)	Brooklyn College
New York Students Rising	SUNY New Paltz
New York Water Environment Association	City College of New York
Newing College Council	Binghamton University
Newman Catholic Club	Brooklyn College
Newman Club	Queensborough Community College
Office of Student Life & Development	NYC College of Technology
Ombudsmen of City College of New York	City College of New York
Oxfam America	SUNY New Paltz
P.U.S.H. - Purchase United to Subvert Hierarchy	SUNY Purchase College
Pakistani Club	Hunter College
Palestine Solidarity Alliance	Hunter College
Pan- African Student Association	SUNY Cortland
Parents Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Paths to Animal Liberation	Hunter College
Peace Action	Binghamton University
Peer-Led Team Learning Club	NYC College of Technology
People in Action	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Phi Theta Kappa	Nassau Community College
Phi Theta Kappa	Queensborough Community College
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society	Bronx Community College
Philosophy Club	City College of New York
PossAbilities	Hunter College
Pre-Dental honor's Society	City College of New York

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Pre-Law	Hunter College
Pre-Med Club	SUNY Cortland
Pride Alliance	SUNY Buffalo State College
Pride Club	Nassau Community College
Psychology Club	College of Staten Island
Psychology Club	Nassau Community College
Psychology Club	SUNY Purchase College
Psychology Club	Queensborough Community College
Psychology Student Association	City College of New York
Puerto Rican Alliance	Brooklyn College
PULSE	SUNY Buffalo State College
Purchase College Green Team	SUNY Purchase College
Purchase Comics United	SUNY Purchase College
QC Dream Team	Queens College
QC Film Club	Queens College
QC Student Women's Center	Queens College
Queens College Computer Graphics	Queens College
Queens College Fitness Center (OCCR)	Queens College
Queens College Neuroscience Club (QCNC)	Queens College
Queens College Sikh Club	Queens College
Quidditch Club	SUNY New Paltz
Rainbow Pride Union	Binghamton University
Rem Rad Club	NYC College of Technology
Resurgence In Christ Ministry	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Retention, Achievement, Professionalism Success Institute	City College of New York
Robotics / IEE Club	Queensborough Community College
Roller Hockey Club	SUNY Cortland
Roosevelt Institute	City College of New York
Rotaract Club	SUNY Buffalo State College
Royal Island Step Team	College of Staten Island
Rhythm Hitters	Hunter College
S.O.F.E.D.U.P	Brooklyn College
S.P.I.R.I.T Students Praising in Rhythm and In Truth	SUNY Buffalo State College
SAASADA	Borough of Manhattan Community College
SANA	College of Staten Island
Science Activities Club	City College of New York
Science Fiction/Animation at Queens College	Queens College
Science Research Alliance	Queensborough Community College

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
SciFi and Fantasy Club	Nassau Community College
Seed Bank	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Service for Health, Inequality Reduction, National Disaster Relief, and Education (SHINE)	Binghamton University
Sigma Chi Eta	Nassau Community College
Sigma Delta Tau Fraternity	SUNY New Paltz
Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc.	Brooklyn College
Sigma Lambda Upsilon	SUNY Buffalo State College
Sigma Rho Phi	City College of New York
Slam Poetry Club	Binghamton University
Social Justice Coalition	SUNY New Paltz
Society for Ecological Restoration at SUNY-ESF	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Sociology Anthropology Club	SUNY Cortland
Sociology Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Sociology Club	SUNY Purchase College
SOFEUBUB	Brooklyn College
SPARK	SUNY Cortland
Speak Magazine	SUNY Cortland
Speen Club	Brooklyn College
Stage Struck Drama Club	College of Staten Island
Staten Island Against Racism & Police Brutality	College of Staten Island
Steel Bridge Club	City College of New York
STEM Club	Queensborough Community College
Step Club	NYC College of Technology
Student Activities Board	SUNY Cortland
Student Alliance for Social Services	SUNY New Paltz
Student American Dental Hygienists Association	NYC College of Technology
Student Art Association	SUNY New Paltz
Student Association	SUNY New Paltz
Student Association	Queens College
Student Association for International Studies	City College of New York
Student Government	Brooklyn College
Student Government	College of Staten Island
Student Government Association	NYC College of Technology
Student Government Association	Nassau Community College
Student Government Association	Queensborough Community College

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Student Health Club	Queensborough Community College
Student Nurses Association	Queensborough Community College
Student Organization for Disability Awareness	Queensborough Community College
Student Organization of Latinos	Nassau Community College
Student Political Society	SUNY Buffalo State College
Students Against Mass Incarceration	SUNY New Paltz
Students for Educational Reform	Binghamton University
Students for Educational Rights	City College of New York
Students for Sensible Drug Policy	Binghamton University
Students for Sensible Drug Policy at SUNY Purchase	SUNY Purchase College
Students for Sustainable Agriculture	SUNY New Paltz
Students of Sustainability	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Students Partnering and Reaching Kids	Brooklyn College
Students Without Borders	Hunter College
Study Abroad Scholarship Association	Brooklyn College
SUNY Cortland Gospel Choir	SUNY Cortland
SUNY New Paltz Swing Dance Club	SUNY New Paltz
Susquehanna Community Council	Binghamton University
Sustainability Project	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Swim Team	Brooklyn College
Syracuse After Hours	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Syracuse Club Roller Hockey	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Syracuse University Rugby Football Club	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Syracuse University Student Association	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Tan Epsilon Phi	Queens College
Tau Beta Pi	City College of New York
TBA Improv	SUNY New Paltz
Tha Ink Club	Queens College
The ALPHA Club	College of Staten Island
The Black Student Union	Binghamton University
The Campus Magazine	City College of New York
The Daily Orange	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
The Knight News	Queens College
The Olivetree Review	Hunter College
The Race Project "See me, know me, hear me" Committee	SUNY Cortland
The Safe Space	City College of New York
The Salsa Sazon Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
The Sociology Club	Brooklyn College

<b>Full Name of Club/Organization</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Theta Chi Fraternity	Syracuse University and SUNY ESF
Third Rail Magazine	College of Staten Island
Trinabago Club	Queensborough Community College
Undergraduate Speech and Hearing Society	Brooklyn College
Undergraduate Student Government	City College of New York
United Students Government	SUNY Buffalo State College
Veteran Club	Queens College
Veterans Club	Queensborough Community College
Video Game Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
WBCR - Brooklyn College Radio	Brooklyn College
WHCS Hunter	Hunter College
Women in Business	City College of New York
Women of Color	Brooklyn College
Women of Color	SUNY Cortland
Women's Club Lacrosse	SUNY New Paltz
Women's Rugby	SUNY New Paltz
Women's Student Union	Binghamton University
WQMC - QC Radio Club	Queens College
Writer's Anonymous	City College of New York
WSIA	College of Staten Island
X-Factr Step Team	Binghamton University
Xtreme Sports Club	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Yearbook Club	Queens College

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