



January 25, 2022

Dear Members of the Capital Region Legislative Delegation:

I write to inform you of the Capital Region Chamber's position on two of Governor Hochul's proposals related to the University at Albany.

The Governor has proposed to return the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) to the University at Albany. The Chamber strongly supports this proposal. This reunification of CNSE and the University at Albany will enhance the University's position as a world-class research institution. This reunion will benefit students, faculty, and the Capital Region.

The Governor has also proposed that just two of SUNY's four University Centers become flagship world-class research universities, while the University at Albany would be designated a national-class research and teaching university. The Governor has made this proposal despite the fact that all four University Centers have the same Research 1 Carnegie classification, signifying the highest level of research and doctoral activity.

The Chamber strongly opposes this proposal, which is essentially a demotion. It would negatively impact the University's ability to attract research grants, students, and faculty. With CNSE being reunited with the University and the construction of a world-renowned new Wadsworth Center lab at the Harriman Campus, the University at Albany already is a world-class research institution situated at the heart of a major up-and-coming research corridor. It would be an avoidable error to downgrade the University to national-class status - a designation that has no meaning within higher education.

As you are aware, our Chamber is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and shared access to economic opportunity. We are therefore immensely proud of the fact that the University at Albany is one of the most diverse research institutions in the country with the largest percentage of Black and Latino undergraduates of any SUNY research campus. The University is a model that should be replicated and highlighted. It would be a mistake to downgrade its status to national-class research teaching university. As demonstrated by the fact that CNSE began at the University at Albany, UAlbany need not further prove its credentials as a world-class research institution within the SUNY system.

We respectfully request that all members of the Capital Region Legislative Delegation support reunification of CSNE and the University at Albany and reject the proposal to designate just two of the four SUNY R1 centers as flagship universities. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark N. Eagan'.

Mark N. Eagan, CCE
President and CEO

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ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION, ONE REGION.**

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