

## An Open Letter from Leaders of CUNY College Foundations

DEAR GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

AND MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY:

We write to you as the volunteer leaders of the boards of foundations supporting every college of The City University of New York (CUNY). Along with the hundreds of New Yorkers who serve on our boards, and the thousands of generous donors who last year contributed over \$250 million to the University, we are deeply concerned – more concerned than we have ever been – about the health, future and continued independence of CUNY. We are calling on you now to support this vitally important institution.

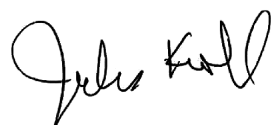
The City University of New York appears to face an uncertain future. The 2016-17 Executive Budget proposes shifting almost \$500 million in state support of CUNY to the city, a move the city opposes and an amount the city has not included in its budget. The Governor has recently promised that CUNY's budget will not be cut, but the source of funding remains unclear. Funding to settle CUNY labor contracts now 6 and 7 years out of date appears to be at risk, even though the budgets of the Executive, Senate and Assembly all recognize that a major investment is needed. The fiscal instability and the lack of certainty about supporting CUNY's faculty and staff reflected in this year's budget deliberations are deeply troublesome. Also of great concern are threats to CUNY's independence, which is required by legislation establishing CUNY and has been vital to fulfilling its unique mission.

CUNY has never been more important to the future of our city and state. This year, CUNY welcomed a record number of degree seeking students – 275,000 – and the largest number of continuing education students in its history – another 275,000. As has been true since its founding, CUNY is providing opportunities for upward mobility for thousands of low income, underrepresented and immigrant students. As CUNY alumnus and former Intel CEO Andy Grove said, CUNY is the “American Dream Machine.” In our view, this American Dream Machine deserves enthusiastic support and additional investment, not a precarious future.

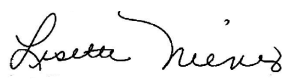
We all have an interest in the cost effectiveness of our institutions, but we also believe that CUNY's budget must have stability and investment so it can plan and fulfill its educational mission with efficiency. With appropriate support, CUNY can continue to be nimble and innovative, ready to respond to the demands and opportunities of the diverse communities it serves. As leaders in our city and state we also understand acutely the importance of an educated workforce. The students who attend CUNY, and their future employers, are counting on our elected leaders to sustain and build a strong University.

We urge you to invest in CUNY so it can better serve its students and our City and State. This includes making the investment needed in this budget to settle CUNY's long overdue labor contracts. At the end of the day, the vast majority of CUNY's graduates remain in New York State, living and working here, benefiting the economy and the State through the taxes they pay and the other contributions they make. There is no better investment. We urge you to use your good offices to ensure a viable, healthy CUNY.

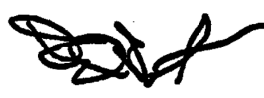
Respectfully,



Jules Kroll  
The John Jay College  
Foundation



Lisette Nieves  
Guttman Community College  
Foundation



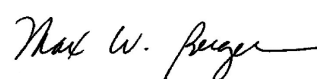
Richard Ravitch  
CUNY Graduate School of  
Journalism Foundation



Stephen Karafiol  
City College Fund



Olga Luz Tirado  
Bronx Community College  
Foundation



Max Berger  
Baruch College Fund



Robert Kissane  
CUNY School of Professional  
Studies Foundation



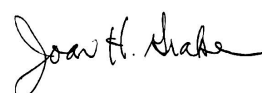
Martin Cohen  
City College 21st Century  
Foundation



Mark Kupferberg  
Queensborough Community  
College Foundation



Suresh L. Sani  
LaGuardia Community College  
Foundation



Joan Grabe  
The Hunter College  
Foundation



Craig Kaplan  
The Graduate Center  
Foundation



Myrna M. Rivera, C.I.M.A.  
Lehman College  
Foundation



Lyndon Haviland  
CUNY Graduate School of  
Public Health Foundation



Edwin Cohen  
Brooklyn College  
Foundation



Christine Larsen  
Borough of Manhattan  
Community College  
Foundation



José A. Sánchez Kinghorn  
Hostos Community College  
Foundation



Barry Bryer  
The Queens College  
Foundation



Suzanne Murphy  
Kingsborough Community  
College Foundation




Daniel Evers-Everette  
Medgar Evers College  
Educational Foundation



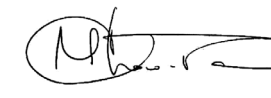
The Hon. Alice Fisher Rubin  
New York City College of  
Technology Foundation



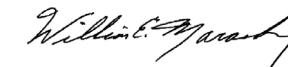
Marnie Berk  
CUNY School of Law  
Foundation



Samir Farag  
College of Staten Island  
Foundation



Michele Chow-Tai  
The York College  
Foundation



William Macaulay  
Macaulay Honors College  
Foundation