



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DONNA A. LUPARDO
123rd Assembly District

SENATOR FRED AKSHAR
52nd Senate District

January 24, 2022

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

As the state representatives for Binghamton University (BU), we are very supportive of your vision to make SUNY the premier higher education system in the nation. Your proposal to establish a BATTERY-NY, Technology Development and Manufacturing Center at BU is especially appreciated. It recognizes the groundbreaking battery research being done at BU, under the guidance of Nobel Laureate Stan Wittingham and many others. As you know, this research has positioned the Southern Tier to be a center for advanced manufacturing and clean energy technology.

Given the incredible reputation of Binghamton University, we were dismayed by the proposal to designate Buffalo and Stony Brook “flagship institutions,” while classifying Binghamton University and the University at Albany in a lower tier by de facto. All four University Centers are R1 research institutions on the forefront of global research.

There is shared sense by *alumni, current faculty, and students, that this proposal would put Binghamton and Albany at a real disadvantage in terms of research dollars and the recruitment of top students. It is well known that Binghamton University consistently receives the highest rankings of any of the SUNY schools in multiple publications. BU also boasts the highest graduation rate (4 year: 72%; 6 year: 82%), and largest growth in enrollment of the four university centers (21.84% since 2010).

We are not opposed to the “flagship” idea per se. We respectfully request that if the SUNY system continues down this path, that all four University Centers receive this designation, or none at all. The research focus of each center is equally impressive and should be held up as such. They also share a research eco-system that could be negatively impacted by a perceived tiered system. The ramifications would likely effect more than the institutions themselves.

We look forward to discussing these matters further as the budget process unfolds. Thanks again for your strong support for SUNY and for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,



Donna A. Lupardo
Member of Assembly
123rd District



Frederick J. Akshar
Member of the State Senate
52nd District

CC:

Carl Heastie, Speaker, NYS Assembly
Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Majority Leader, NYS Senate
Deborah Stanley, SUNY Interim Chancellor
Robert Mujica, Division of Budget Director
Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Chair, Higher Education Committee
Senator Toby Stavisky, Chair, Higher Education Committee
President Harvey Stenger, Binghamton University

*ALUMNI

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries
Senator John Liu
Senator John Mannion
Assemblymember Marianne Buttenschon
Assemblymember Robert Carroll
Assemblymember Anna Kelles
Assemblymember Dan Quart
Assemblymember Michael Tannous
Assemblymember Monica Wallace