SUNY is prepared to maintain its standing as a functional and desirable destination for New York’s (and beyond) best and brightest. The Master Capital Plan aims to provide SUNY faculty, students, and staff with the highest functioning and best conditioned buildings and infrastructure possible in support of its educational mission. To this end, the University is proud to share the following current and long-term capital program objectives for its state-operated, statutory, and hospital facilities. These planned investments in classrooms, laboratories, treatment centers, and infrastructure will allow SUNY to continue its role as an effective and accountable steward of essential resources of the State of New York. In order to build upon this progress, SUNY will continue to need sustained capital investment in order to address Critical Maintenance needs on all of its campuses.

IV. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN SUNY’S CAPITAL PROGRAM

Size of Physical Plant/Age of Facilities/Conditions

SUNY’s educational and hospital facilities have evolved greatly from their beginnings. These facilities became assets of SUNY, and by extension, the State, in two major periods. The first was at the creation of the SUNY system, spanning 1948 to 1953, following the findings of the Temporary Commission on the Need for a State University System in 1948. During this brief period, a total of 24 campuses were moved from stand-alone institutions, and began life as SUNY system-related entities. The second, between the 1960’s and the 1980’s, saw either the transition or establishment of eight campuses to the state-operated and statutory components that comprise today’s SUNY system. Today, SUNY campuses account for 40 percent of all State-owned assets (excluding infrastructure and land), with the Educational Facilities alone accounting for more than 1,800 academic buildings covering nearly 63 million gross square feet. The maintenance of these campus facilities continues to grow in cost, a direct result of their inherent age. Over the past 60 years, the passage of time and the impact of heavy annual use have left a mark on SUNY’s physical condition. As shown in the following chart, approximately 74 percent (46 million GSF) of all educational and hospital facilities, are more than 35 years old and date back to nearly the formation of SUNY itself. SUNY has, however, invested significant resources to address the renewal needs of these aging facilities.
Execution of Master Capital Plan and Multi-Year Capital Program

The SUNY Educational Facilities and Hospital Capital Programs are administered by the State University Construction Fund (Fund). The Fund coordinates funding and capital planning for all capital projects under these programs, while design and construction contracts for these projects can be managed by either the Fund or the campuses. As demonstrated in the graph below, campuses typically manage smaller, quick-turnaround projects and the Fund manages large scale, longer duration projects.

The timely and effective execution of the Capital Plan requires sufficient staff resources. The ability of the Fund to maintain its current level of services to campuses will be dependent upon additional operating resources. The Fund has not received an increase to its operating budget since 2012/13, but has had to absorb cost of living expenses over this time period.
Economic Development

SUNY is a state-wide entity and plays an important role in New York’s economy throughout the State. Capital investment fuels SUNY’s economic development potential on three levels. The first level is the creation of primary design and construction industry jobs directly related to each project funded with capital investment. The second level is attributable to the economic benefits of localized spending resulting from the primary jobs. SUNY’s extensive and geographically diverse network of facilities across New York provides a built-in, broad framework for promoting economic development. Small communities throughout New York State thrive with this capital infusion. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, faculty and staff are retained to teach and support students and conduct research in newly created or renovated and repurposed facilities. These faculty members teach New York’s future workforce, as well as the next generation of New York State leaders. These students will enrich the intellectual, economic, and social capital of New York State for years to come.

As New York State seeks to grow and transform its economy, SUNY is in a unique position to aid this effort as both an educational and economic force.

SUNY’s role as an economic engine has been recognized by New York State with the passage of the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program in 2011 and recurring annually through 2017-18 State Fiscal Year. Under the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program, the State has provided over $475 million in grant funds that have
been, or could be, awarded based on competitive proposals submitted by state-operated, statutory and community colleges that facilitate economic and workforce development. The NYSUNY 2020 grants are intended to make state-of-the-art facilities available to students, faculty, and researchers, leverage opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate with businesses and provide experiential learning opportunities that connect students to the workforce.

As demonstrated in the following map, the investment made in SUNY’s capital program over the last 12 years has greatly benefited every region of the State.
Energy Savings Efforts

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system is the national benchmark for high performance green buildings, recognizing the best-in-class building strategies and practices. The LEED rating system evaluates project design in six categories: sustainable sites, materials and resources, water efficiency, innovation in design, energy and atmosphere, and indoor environmental quality. A point system results in LEED certification in one of four levels: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

Pursuant to the 2001 Executive Order 111, the State University requires that a LEED Certified rating be achieved for all new buildings, additions, and major rehabilitation projects at state-operated campuses. Pursuant to the 2007 resolution adopted by the SUNY Board of Trustees, the State University makes its best effort to achieve at least a LEED Silver rating for all new buildings, additions, and major rehabilitation projects at state-operated campuses and statutory colleges.

To achieve a LEED Silver rating, it is often not just a single component, but a multitude of components that, when combined, provide for additional energy savings or resource conservation opportunities. Most of the State University’s critical maintenance and strategic initiative projects have beneficial energy-saving components, such as enhanced roofing insulation, windows with higher thermal performance, or energy efficient mechanical systems. The policy established by Executive Order 111 and strengthened by the SUNY Board is an integral part of the University’s planning, design, and construction practices for achieving sustainable building design and construction on its campuses.

In 2012, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 88, mandating a 20 percent improvement in the energy efficiency performance of State Government buildings by April 2020. With the largest building portfolio of all New York State entities and departments, SUNY is at the forefront of Executive Order 88 and has willingly embraced a leadership role in state-wide compliance.