IV. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN SUNY’S CAPITAL PROGRAM

Size of Physical Plant/Age of Facilities

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 more than 1,800 academic buildings covering nearly 60 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 (48 million GSF) of all educational and hospital facilities, are more than 30 years old and date back to nearly the formation of SUNY itself. SUNY has, however, invested time and resources in the tracking and care of these aging facilities. Through the Building Condition Assessment Survey (BCAS) of almost every building, and associated analysis of data by consultants to determine renewal and backlog information for each campus, SUNY has intelligently utilized the resources made available to maintain its aging physical plant.

![Graph showing Total SUNY GSF By Years of Construction (65M Total) Educational Facilities & Hospitals]

State University of New York
State-Operated and Statutory Campuses
Profile of Facility Age
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 in and support students and 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 2016-17 State Fiscal Year. Under the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program, the State has provided over $420 million in grant funds that have been, or soon will be, awarded based on competitive proposals submitted by state-operated, statutory and community colleges that facilitate economic and workforce development. The NYSUNY 2020 grants make state-of-the-art facilities available to students, faculty, and researchers, leverage opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate with businesses eligible to participate in START-UP NY, 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 11 years has greatly benefited every region of the State.
CENTRAL NEW YORK
$1.3B Invested
10,211 Jobs Created
$46/hr

SOUTHERN TIER
$1.0B Invested
8,400 Jobs Created
$45/hr

FINGER LAKES
$395M Invested
3,082 Jobs Created
$49/hr

WESTERN
$1.8B Invested
14,415 Jobs Created
$54/hr

SOUTHERN TIER
$1.0B Invested
8,400 Jobs Created
$45/hr

MID-HUDSON
$496M Invested
3,867 Jobs Created
$65/hr

NORTH COUNTRY
$457M Invested
3,564 Jobs Created
$46/hr

CAPITAL REGION
$794M Invested
6,188 Jobs Created
$52/hr

MOHAWK VALLEY
$436M Invested
3,398 Jobs Created
$49/hr

NYC
$536M Invested
4,176 Jobs Created
$91/hr

LONG ISLAND
$1.9B Invested
15,243 Jobs Created
$88/hr

NORTH COUNTRY
$457M Invested
3,564 Jobs Created
$46/hr

CAPITAL REGION
$794M Invested
6,188 Jobs Created
$52/hr

MOHAWK VALLEY
$436M Invested
3,398 Jobs Created
$49/hr

NYC
$536M Invested
4,176 Jobs Created
$91/hr

LONG ISLAND
$1.9B Invested
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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.