



College Brief

NO. 121 May 15, 2020

FROM: Louis J. Petrizzo, Interim President

SUBJECT: College Extends the Period of Reduced Density in the Workplace
Through June 13, 2020

In alignment with New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s “New York on PAUSE” executive order, the College will extend the period of remote College operation through June 13, 2020.

GOVERNOR CUOMO’S PLAN FOR PHASED RE-OPENING

The Governor has indicated that he plans to cautiously reopen the state using a four-phased approach that is linked to regional attainment of a set of seven metrics. Currently, Long Island and New York City have not yet met all seven benchmarks that have been stipulated. Once that is accomplished, an Executive Order certifying that a region has met the criteria to “un-pause” will still be needed. Education as a category, is a Phase 4 re-opening business classification. The College has made the final determination to shift all summer session classes to fully online or “real-time” online modality. There will be no face-to-face summer session classes this year.

Specifically referencing whether public colleges will return to face-to-face instruction for September: [Quote from New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo \(5/13/20\)](#)

At SUNY Suffolk, we are preparing contingency plans for the fall 2020 semester. Our primary concern will always be to ensure that our students, faculty and staff are able to learn in a safe environment.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNOUNCES 2020-2021 TUITION FREEZE

As a gesture of community support during this time of uncertainty for Long Island families, the Board of Trustees at its May meeting announced that the 2020-2021 Proposed College Operating Budget would include a one-year freeze to the annual rate of tuition (the current annual tuition rate is \$5,470 for full-time, in-state residents).

By offering an affordable option for students to stay local as they continue pursuit of their education goals, the Board hopes more students will choose to enroll at Suffolk. The College is set to initiate a promotional campaign in support of the tuition freeze.

COLLEGE AND SUNY BOARDS REAPPOINT LOUIS J. PETRIZZO AS INTERIM PRESIDENT

To continue the effective leadership of the College, the Board of Trustees voted yesterday to reappoint Louis J. Petrizzo as Interim President. Initially appointed to this role by the College's Board in August 2019 and further approved by the SUNY Board on September 25, 2019, the reappointment will extend Mr. Petrizzo's term as Interim President from September 26, 2020 through September 25, 2021 or until a new President is appointed, whichever is earlier. The SUNY Board of Trustees approved this reappointment at its meeting on May 6, 2020.



CARES ACT FUNDING UPDATE

The College qualified to receive a total of \$13.1 million through the CARES Act. Half of this total (\$6.5 million) is dedicated to student support, and half to institutional relief. We have received the student funds, but cannot release any disbursements until SUNY approves our distribution plan and provides us with their authorization. We have completed all requirements on our end for this to happen. SUNY authorization has not been forthcoming and we appeal daily, on behalf of our students, for SUNY to allow us to begin distributing funds, which we all know are sorely needed.

COLLEGE COMPLETES PROPOSED 2020-2021 OPERATING BUDGET

Many uncertainties made completion of the College's operating budget especially challenging this year. The following budget assumptions were taken into consideration in the development of the proposed budget:

- The Governor's State budget already eliminated floor funding for community colleges, yielding a negative impact to SUNY Suffolk of \$2.7 million.
- The Governor has been indicating that we should ask elected officials to advocate for additional federal stimulus funds for New York. Without such help, the Governor has referenced the possibility of a second round of state budget cuts that would impact the education sector, including community colleges. The level of the cuts mentioned by the Governor (ranging from 10% to 50%), would be devastating to our College.
- Adding further stress to the budget process, the County is facing an historic shortfall in lost sales tax revenue this year, which its Budget Review Office projects could be \$100 million or more. This could impact the level of County support being requested; the College budget seeks a 2% increase in County funding (this equates to revenue for the College of \$950,000).
- The Budget assumes a 7% additional decline to the level of enrollment.



FOUNDATION ASSISTS OVER 500 STUDENTS THROUGH COVID-19 EMERGENCY AND HARDSHIP FUNDS

To date, the Foundation has successfully raised over \$63,000 to support the COVID-19 Emergency Fund. SUNY's receipt of a \$5 million anonymous gift, enabled the system to direct half of those funds to form a pool to match COVID-19 funds raised at the College/campus level statewide. The Foundation has submitted an application to

participate in this matching gift opportunity. Thanks to support from the college community and its donors, Suffolk's Foundation has already raised more than the minimum necessary to qualify for the match. <https://justgiving.com/campaign/sccf-covid19>

MARKING THE TRADITIONAL COMMENCEMENT SEASON

Various components of the College's virtual celebration of Commencement are underway:

- Design of a social media photo frame has been completed and will be shared with our graduates for use on their social media sites. Use the following link to share: www.facebook.com/profilepicframes/?selected_overlay_id=243151377095638
- This week, we received a commencement video message from SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson and U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer.
- Filming of a video featuring congratulations from the College's student leaders has been completed and is currently being edited. In addition, a graduate year-in-review photo retrospective is being compiled and designed. When complete, all videos and the retrospective will be accessible on our special 2020 graduate celebration website. That site will also include a scrolling list of all graduate names.
- A commemorative celebration box for graduates is also being discussed by a work group that has been charged with implementing this element of the 2020 Commencement plan.