



# BUDGET WATCH '03

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## Some key facts to consider:

- This year's state funding of \$250 million for research Centers of Excellence is expected to leverage new private and federal funding of more than \$1 billion, creating high-paying jobs in every region of the state.
- While New York has less than 7 percent of U.S. population, it's home to 10 percent of the nation's Ph.D.'s, a key asset for economic development.
- Census figures say average household income for college graduates in 2000 was \$65,922, compared to \$36,722 for high-school graduates with no college.
- Including tuition and fees, costs for SUNY students have risen less than 2 percent a year since 1995-96 — about a third of the average increase for public colleges and universities nationwide.

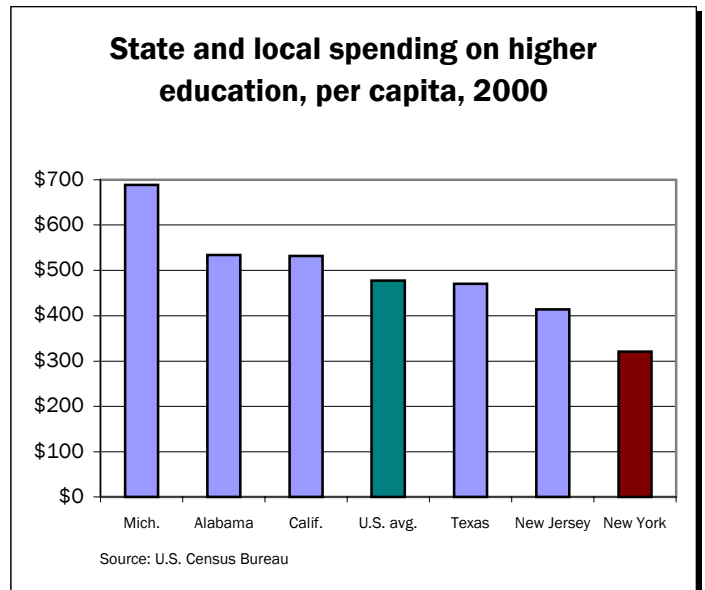
## OUR HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IS A BARGAIN FOR NEW YORK TAXPAYERS

Taxes in New York are too high, because our government spending is too high. Particularly in times like the present, it's essential to get spending back under control.

Believe it or not, though, there's one area where New York's per capita spending is 49th among the 50 states: higher education. New York's state and local government support for colleges and universities was one-third below the national average, on a per-capita basis, in 2000.

This doesn't necessarily mean we're starving higher ed. It means the taxpayers are getting a bargain—in large part because of our system of private and independent colleges (which enroll about 40 percent of New York's higher ed students, compared to a national average of 23 percent). But the fact that higher education is a bargain doesn't mean it should also be an afterthought.

Our public and private institutions of higher learning—from community colleges, to world-class research universities—enrich the lives of more than 1 million enrolled students,



including those attending part-time. More than 200,000 earn a bachelor's, associate's or other degree in a typical year.

This intellectual powerhouse has always been a huge economic asset. And today our research universities are increasingly working in tandem with the best minds in the business world to develop new technologies that, in turn, will create the high-paying jobs of

tomorrow.

Governor Pataki and the Legislature recognized the bright promise of university-business cooperation by creating the Gen\*NY\*sis program, Centers of Excellence and other efforts to stimulate that research—and create those jobs—in New York. Those investments will pay off only if they are sustained.

## A TUITION INCREASE COULD PROTECT QUALITY AT SUNY

The State University of New York is one of the world's great educational bargains—as shown consistently in national rankings that consider both SUNY's high quality and its low cost.

Reports in Albany indicate a tuition increase may be on the way. That's not a bad idea.

At \$3,400 a year, SUNY tuition has been stable for seven years—a rarity in higher education.

State university tuition is far higher in states such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Vermont. Private institutions nationwide charge an average \$18,273 a year for tuition and

fees, according to the College Board.

If SUNY tuition does go up, campuses should be allowed to use additional revenue to continue their efforts to raise quality standards. And a portion must also be devoted to offsetting the higher cost for needy students.