



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2009

**NYSUT says mid-year cuts would cause grave harm to SUNY services
Students will bear the brunt of cutbacks**

ALBANY . New York State United Teachers leaders said today that the mid-year elimination of \$90 million from an already under-funded SUNY budget would impact essential student services at a time of great need. This represents a major tax increase for students and their families.

.The ones who would suffer from devastating mid-year cuts would be the students,. said NYSUT President Richard Iannuzzi. .If SUNY is forced to scale back admissions, countless individuals will be left without access to an affordable college education during this tough economic time..

.These cuts are unthinkable,. said Alan Lubin, NYSUT executive vice president. .In tough times like these, cutting back . or in many cases eliminating . the one affordable means through which many of our state's students can earn a college degree is incredibly misguided. These cuts will cause irreparable harm and will damage the future of our state's economy..

Starting with mid-year cuts in 2008 of \$148 million . representing 25 percent of the cuts taken against state agencies . SUNY has been flattened by budget cuts. The University also lost \$172 million in state support in the 2009-10 state budget, bringing the overall cuts to SUNY, including today's cuts, to a staggering \$410 million. This is a 25-30 percent reduction in the amount of state support available to the institution.

NYSUT's members include SUNY faculty and other professionals who are members of United University Professions.

NYSUT, the state's largest union, represents more than 600,000 classroom teachers and other school employees; faculty and other professionals at the state's community colleges, State University of New York and City University of New York, and other education and health professionals. NYSUT is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association and AFL-CIO.