



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

November 11, 2008

To the New York State Institutions of Higher Education:

New York State competes in an increasingly interconnected global marketplace, characterized by intensifying exchanges among people and institutions from around the world. Throughout its rich history, New York has provided a gateway to the United States for generations of immigrants, innovators and entrepreneurs who have had a profound impact on the social, political and economic landscape of our Nation. Without question, the future strength and vitality of our great State necessitates building upon this distinguished legacy.

Higher education is an essential driver of the innovation, technology and talent that fuels the world economy. Each year, New York hosts upwards of 60,000 international students who contribute over \$1.8 billion dollars to the statewide economy. Furthermore, international students and researchers offer additional positive impacts by remaining in the state, legally, following graduation.

Beyond their economic contributions, international students improve the quality of higher education in New York State by introducing diverse perspectives, cultures and backgrounds both on campus and in the classroom. Their presence promotes an environment of mutual understanding and exchange, and supports the multicultural landscape for which New York is celebrated.

I believe that New York is home to some of the finest institutions of higher learning in the world. I welcome the efforts of our colleges and universities to work together toward marketing New York State as the destination of choice for international students seeking the world's premier higher education experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Paterson".

David A. Paterson