

February 12, 2021

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader
New York State Senate
LOB 907
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

On behalf of the 15 Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs) and 14 Centers of Excellence (COEs), we respectfully request that the State Senate and Assembly reject Governor Cuomo's proposal to eliminate the New York State Centers of Excellence and consolidate them with the Centers for Advanced Technology. In addition, we ask the Senate and Assembly to restore funding from the \$19 million in the Executive Budget proposal to last year's combined total of \$23,593,165 for the 29 Centers: \$10,631,785 for the COEs and \$12,961,380 for the CATs.

We are grateful for the State Legislature's support in rejecting a similar proposal last year and helping to partially restore funding for the Centers. Thanks to your support, the CATs and the COEs were able to play a significant role in the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CATs and COEs collaborated with industry on at least 81 COVID-related projects, including testing, PPE, HVAC and therapeutics. The Centers can also continue to play an important role as we rebuild New York's economy in the wake of the global pandemic.

In the last 3 years (2017-2019 ESD annual reports), the CATs and COEs have helped create and retain 9,816 jobs and generate \$2.57 billion in economic impact. The strategic locations and unique strengths of each CAT and COE gives every region across the state a foundation for growth, helping build New York companies, while also building our economy back in a better and more equitable fashion.



UNIVERSITY
AT ALBANY

State University of New York

Alfred University
OUTSIDE of ORDINARY

BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

UB University
at Buffalo
The State University of New York

The logo for Clarkson University, featuring a circular seal with a book and a gear, next to the text "Clarkson™".

Clarkson™

The logo for Cornell University, featuring a circular seal with a book and a sun, next to the text "Cornell University".

Cornell University

CUNY THE CITY
UNIVERSITY
OF
NEW YORK

ESF

State University of New York College of
Environmental Science and Forestry

The logo for New York University, featuring a purple square with a white torch, next to the text "NEW YORK UNIVERSITY".

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

SUNY POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE

The logo for Rensselaer University, featuring a circular seal with a book and a gear, next to the text "Rensselaer".

Rensselaer

The logo for the University of Rochester, featuring a shield with a book and a gear, next to the text "UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER".

UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER

RIT

The logo for Stony Brook University, featuring a red shield with a white star, next to the text "Stony Brook University".

Stony Brook University

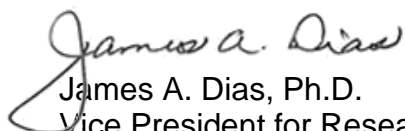
Syracuse University

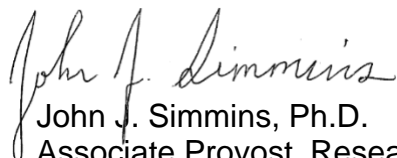
Surprisingly, despite the exceptionally high economic returns that these programs have consistently achieved, funding for CATs and COEs in the Executive Budget has consistently been cut for more than a decade. Another cut in funding on top of a previous cut will only lead to the loss of jobs, contracts, projects, and partnerships. Strengthening the State's investment in academic-industry innovation and commercialization is needed to foster job creation, attract new companies and investment, and develop the state's workforce to support industry demands.

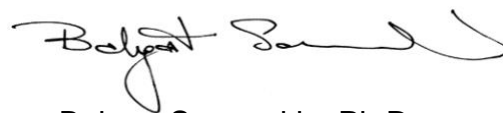
Restoring funding to last year's levels for each of the Centers will help them meet the demand for their expertise, technology and commercialization support. State support is also leveraged to attract added funding through corporate sponsored research and federal grants, such as the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) funding. This will amplify and accelerate the job growth, formation of new companies, and returns on investment (ROI) annually achieved through the CAT and COE programs.


We are confident that rejecting the Governor's proposal to consolidate the CATs and COEs and restoring funding to last year's combined total of \$23,593,165 for the 29 Centers will help in our efforts to strengthen the economic and educational viability of New York. Thank you in advance for your consideration and the State Legislature's continued support of these proven programs driving scientific discovery, technological advancement, and economic development across our great state. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us should you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,


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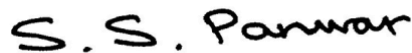
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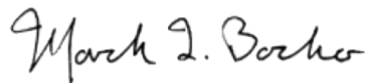
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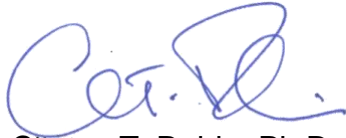
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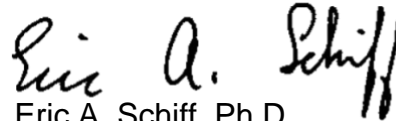
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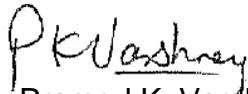
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Senator Anna Kaplan
Senator Liz Krueger
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