



**SUBJECT:** SUNY Is Helping Those Hardest Hit by the Pandemic Apply to College This Year

Dear Class of 2021,

We know the pandemic has made planning for college especially challenging this year, and we understand the additional burdens on many of our families. That's exactly why SUNY is reaching out to those hardest hit by the pandemic to offer [additional guidance, support, and resources](#) to help make sure no one falls behind this year due to circumstances beyond their control.

**SUNY's 64 schools across New York State are open, and they are safe.** The overall campus COVID-19 positivity rate is currently 0.54%, well below the state average of 3.2%, and you can continually track the number of cases *by campus* with SUNY's [COVID-19 dashboard](#). You can also learn more about the [COVID-19 safety guidelines](#), which are strictly enforced on all campuses.

There is still time to apply for fall. We encourage you or your student to make an appointment during **SUNY Application Week from March 15-19**, where you'll be able to:

- Talk to a SUNY counselor 1:1 about your options, including financial aid to make college more affordable
- See if you're eligible for application fee waivers, potentially saving up to \$350
- Learn about COVID-19 safety
- Find your place at SUNY's 64 schools or explore online degrees

**[Make an appointment today.](#)**

**The bottom line is, no one should have to put off college this year because of the pandemic.** College pays off – bachelor's degree holders earn an average of \$400,000 more over their lifetime than high school graduates, and nearly 2/3 of all jobs today require some level of college education.

SUNY is the country's largest system of public higher education, and it's right in your backyard. It has set a national standard for COVID-19 safety, and offers world-class education from community colleges through doctoral programs.

This is a great opportunity to help keep your student on track toward their goals and dreams this year. If there's anything your school counselor can do to assist, please let us know.

Sincerely,

**WCSD School Counselors**

Ms. Nicole Kunkel (John Jay HS)

Ms. Laura Margini (Roy C. Ketcham HS)

Ms. Stacy Marshall (John Jay HS)

Ms. Jennifer Soltish (Roy C. Ketcham HS)