




**From:** "[Weeks, Ethel](#)"   
**Date:** May 6, 2020 at 10:58:21 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**To:** "[ALLAFA@LISTS.NCC.EDU](mailto:ALLAFA@LISTS.NCC.EDU)"   
**Subject:** **[ALLAFA] Fw: Advocacy Letter to ask for financial support of Community Colleges**  
**Reply-To:** "[Weeks, Ethel](#)" 

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Dear colleagues,

Below I am sharing with you an email from FCCC President, Professor Christy Fogal from Monroe Community College.

She has been deeply involved, as SUNY Trustee, in the discussions about the education portion of the New York State budget for next year. The 2021 NY State budget includes significant cuts to funding of community colleges.

Here is some background information, in case you did not hear about it yet. According to President Fogal,

"The NY State 2021 budget was passed in early April. The Budget Director is proposing a 30-50% cut in community college funding, only 10% cut to State-Ops. Community colleges funding comes out of the local assistance budget which also includes K-12 and Medicaid. If K-12 and Medicaid are also cut the decrease to CCs would be closer to 30% but if they are not our cut will be closer to 50%. This is on top of the "unfriendly" budget we already received."

[EW: She is referring to the floor funding model not being approved for the coming year.]

The link to the 2021 budget for SUNY, as it appears on the NYS website is:

<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy21/exec/agencies/appropdata/StateUniversityofNewYork.html>

Please read President Fogal's detailed email, and let's all help her advocacy efforts by sending letters (see attached template) to our legislators at all levels, and by making phone calls to them so they hear our views of how important the education we provide to the population of students we serve is, and why it needs to be preserved and its funding supported.

Best wishes for a successful end to this most unusual semester, and for good health to all.

Regards,  
Ethel

**Ethel C. Weeks, Ph.D.**

Professor of Economics & Finance

First Vice Chair, Academic Senate

AFA Executive Board Member & Department Representative

SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges Delegate

**From:** Fogal, Christy <Christy.Fogal@suny.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:57 AM

**To:** FCCC - All members of Faculty Council of Community Colleges  
<fcc@ls.suny.edu>

**Subject:** [fcc] Advocacy Letter

As many of you know the budget that was approved in early April was not “community college friendly” and the Budget Director was given the authority to make changes as the need arose. That has happened. The Budget Director is proposing significant reductions in community college funding. There are 2 ways in which we can help to decrease the financial pain to community colleges.

1. The state legislature has 10 days to make changes to the Budget Directors proposal (May 10 is the deadline)
2. The federal government could approve a stimulus package to help states with their budget deficit due to COVID19

We are being asked as faculty members to reach out to our representatives, state and federal, and tell our stories. At community colleges we serve the very neediest students who may not otherwise have a chance to attend college. How would significant reductions in funding affect our community colleges? Tell our story from the faculty perspective.

Below are some thoughts given to us by System Administration on how we should

advocate. Attached is a letter for you to modify and sign but please consider calling your state and federal legislators as well.

### **Community College Advocacy Outline**

The 2020/21 Enacted State Budget included a provision, approved by the Legislature, to allow the Budget Director to review tax revenues and State spending over certain measurement periods and propose recommended reductions in State funding – if necessary – in order to balance the budget. The Budget Director is required to provide a plan for these reductions, with the plan reviewed by the Legislature. The Legislature has a ten-day period to provide an alternate plan. If they do nothing, the Budget Director’s plan is adopted as-is.

The execution of these powers is dependent on three factors:

1. Re-opening New York State’s economy and increasing tax receipt revenues to the State,
2. Keeping State spending within the strictures of the State Financial Plan, and
3. The federal government providing unrestricted financial assistance to the State through stimulus efforts.

### **State Level**

- Outline the potential consequence to your institution to your state legislators, and recruit them to:
  - Recognize that SUNY community colleges have already been impacted by the State Budget and, when the Legislature is reviewing the Budget Director’s plan, maintain the community colleges ability to serve the most at-risk population by mitigating the excessive reductions in support,
  - Call and advocate with the local congressional delegation on behalf of the campus to provide unrestricted aid directly to the State of New York to offset the drastic economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Federal Level**

- This should be primarily focused on pressuring the NY federal delegation (both U.S. senators and local Representatives) to deliver significantly greater funding for hard-hit states like New York. Specifically, this must be totally unrestricted support to the States that allows them to react to the current fiscal realities.

- The below is our recommended sequence of calls:
  - The first call should be to your county executive(s) – urge them to remove consideration of any negative budgetary actions until after the State revenue plan is finalized. Further, request that they call their member(s) of congress on the campus’ behalf to advocate for additional federal funding.
  - Secondly, we ask that you contact your congressional representatives directly, outlining the severity of the situation, and the consequence of Congress’ failure to deliver for New York in the next stimulus plan.
  - Finally, engage external advocates who carry influence with your delegation members. This can include community college trustees, local business leaders, municipal leaders, influential alumni, student leaders, and partner association/organizational heads. Explain the situation and have them schedule calls to congressional and state legislative contacts, too.

Here are some high-level talking points:

- Remind them of the big picture: SUNY system wide is experiencing an estimated \$850M operating loss due to the response to COVID-19.
- Share costs specific to your campus, and the ramifications if no additional funding is provided by the federal government.
- Also help them appreciate the aggressive response SUNY has taken to keep our communities safe. In addition to moving all instruction to distance learning for the remainder of the semester, the faculty, students, and alumni at SUNY’s Community Colleges have manufactured face shields with 3-D printers, sewed medical-grade masks, organized blood drives and are providing child care to New York’s frontline workers. They have also donated to food banks and student emergency grants. All the while, our community colleges prepare for the workforce development programs that will be required as part of our economic recovery as local industry and businesses adjust their processes and business models.

**Christy Fogal**  
**Faculty Council of Community Colleges President**  
**SUNY Trustee**



