



FISCAL YEAR 2016 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

TESTIMONY

BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES ON FINANCE, YOUTH SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PRESENTED BY

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG

MAY 29, 2015

Good morning Chairwoman Ferreras-Copeland, Chairman Eugene, Chairwoman Arroyo and members of the Finance, Youth Services, and Community Development committees. I'm Bill Chong, Commissioner of the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). I'm joined by Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner, Youth Services and Sandy Gutierrez, Deputy Commissioner, Community Development. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss DYCD's Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Budget.

Since we testified in late March, DYCD has received new resources for additional middle school SONYC program seats, COMPASS elementary programs, Cornerstone community centers and shelter beds for runaway and homeless youth.

The Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Budget includes \$160.2 million for our SONYC programs. This includes \$15.2 million in new funding to add over 7,200 new middle school SONYC seats this September. This will raise the citywide total to nearly 86,000 program seats, which can approximately serve 107,000 students.

I'm also happy to say that after hearing from parents and kids, the administration will fund the full 34,000 middle school seats for this upcoming summer, for this year only -- so that families and providers are not left hanging.

The Executive Budget also includes \$3.6 million for summer programs for 96 renewal schools. The developing plan is to contract with existing DYCD afterschool providers to operate satellite summer programs at school sites without existing comprehensive summer enrichment programming.

Mayor De Blasio baselined \$5.9 million to ensure continuity of service for 17 elementary school-based COMPASS year round programs that DOE funded in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015. The funding is now in DYCD's budget. Contracts with the current providers will be extended to provide summer services. A new RFP will be issued this summer to select providers for new contracts to begin September 1, 2015.

The Executive Budget also invests in Cornerstone centers. \$23.4 million was baselined for 45 Cornerstone centers that began operating in January 2014. We also received \$8.9 million in new funding for DYCD funded providers to assume the operations of another 24 NYCHA community centers, starting July 1, 2015. Transferring these centers to DYCD allows them to remain open and provides budget and operations relief to NYCHA. It also leverages DYCD's expertise working with community center providers and NYCHA communities to develop quality programs and services. All Cornerstone centers will have extended summer hours again, like last year. Combined with the original 25 Cornerstone centers, DYCD will now oversee a total of 94 Cornerstone centers. An RFP will be released this Fall, to select providers for new contracts that begin July 1, 2016.

To further address youth homelessness, the Executive Budget adds \$4.2 million to fund another 100 shelter beds for runaway and homeless youth. Combined with last year's increase, DYCD will have funding for 453 shelter beds in Fiscal Year 2016. Proposals were due for the Runaway and Homeless Youth RFP last Wednesday, May 20. We expect to announce awards in mid-June.

With the start of the Summer Youth Employment Program over a month away, our current SYEP budget stands at \$57.7 million. At this level, we can currently serve 39,252 youth this summer. Another \$14.5 million is needed to reach a total of \$72.2 million, which would allow us to serve over 47,000 youth again. We are also doubling the number of vulnerable youth SYEP slots from 1,000 to 2,000 this summer.

On July 1, 2015, \$15.6 million in new Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) contracts operated by 136 providers will begin. These programs are funded by the federal Community Services Block Grant. One new NDA program area will offer services to disconnected youth, and include case management, job skills development, and a 14 week internship. The remaining NDA services include educational support for high school youth, housing assistance, healthy families, senior services, adult literacy, and immigrant support services.

We are also moving forward with the transition to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs – WIOA – which replaces the Workforce Investment Act. WIOA requires that at least 75% of its funding for youth support programs for out-of-school youth. WIOA takes effect July 1, 2015, but final federal regulations will not be issued until January 2016. In the interim, DYCD has begun to advise contractors on changes to youth eligibility requirements, performance measures, and new youth program elements. DYCD has started to develop a concept paper for WIOA In School and Out of School Youth programs, which we expect to release this summer. We also expect to release an RFP for WIOA youth services this Fall.

With this Executive Budget, Mayor De Blasio continues his commitment to providing enriching activities for our City's youth, quality programs in NYCHA community centers, and reducing youth homelessness, all while making sure that struggling schools across the city have the resources needed for student success. I look forward to working with the City Council to promote the opportunities for youth and communities created by the Mayor's key investments in DYCD.

Thank you again for the chance to testify today. We are happy to answer any questions.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

RICHARD BUERY, JR.
DEPUTY MAYOR FOR
STRATEGIC POLICY INITIATIVES

**Testimony to the New York City Council
Committees on Finance, Youth Services, and Community Development
May 29, 2015**

Good morning, Chair Ferreras-Copeland, Chair Eugene, Chair Arroyo, and members of the Committees on Finance, Youth Services, and Community Development. I am Richard Buery, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives. On behalf of Mayor de Blasio, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today regarding middle school summer enrichment programs. Commissioner Chong will then present testimony on the entirety of DYCD's Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Budget plan.

We have heard the concerns raised by parents, providers, and advocates about the loss of slots in the middle school summer program. I am pleased to announce today that the administration will fund the full 34,000 middle school seats for this upcoming summer. These programs will continue to provide quality enrichment programs in art, dance, sports, and STEM throughout the summer.

Last year's expansion of the summer program was intended to be for one year only. This year, we determined that the greatest funding need was at the renewal schools. However, providers were prematurely notified in March that they could begin enrollment for the upcoming summer. The continuation of the funding for the 34,000 seats is for one year only, but will ensure that no family or provider is left hanging when school ends next month.

DYCD is working with City Hall on details of the implementation of this funding restoration. We will be back in touch with the Council and providers around these details by next week.

We remain committed to a successful summer program and will work closely with providers to make sure that we have one.

Thank you for opportunity to testify today. I am happy to take a few questions on the restoration of the summer program, and then I will turn it over to Commissioner Chong.

The City University of New York



**Testimony of
Chancellor James B. Milliken
The City University of New York
New York City Council Finance and Higher Education Committees
Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Executive Budget Hearing
May 29, 2015**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Ferreras, Chairperson Barron and committee members.

I am James B. Milliken, Chancellor of The City University of New York, and while I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you individually, this is my first time appearing formally before you at this joint committee hearing. Thank you for this opportunity. I also want to thank you at the outset for your longstanding support of CUNY and its students.

I joined this exceptional university about one year ago and I am happy to be spending my anniversary with you. I am hoping my honeymoon extends through this hearing. Or at least I hope you'll understand that while I love CUNY and I'm an enthusiastic student, I'm still learning and may need some help from my colleagues or some time to get back to you on specifics.

This was a great year to be at CUNY and the last few weeks have been no exception. This morning, I spoke at my third commencement of the week, at Bronx Community College, where the class valedictorian, Kirssy Martinez, a DREAM.US Scholarship winner originally from the Dominican Republic, was reunited with her proud parents, whom she had not seen in 14 years. Kirssy also spoke at a reception I hosted recently to celebrate The.DREAM.US Scholarship winners at CUNY. This has been a priority of mine and now CUNY leads the nation with 367 scholarships for next year. Last year, we had 30 scholarships. At the reception, The DREAM.US founder Donald Graham and philanthropist William Ackman were so moved that each pledged an additional \$15 million of support, for a total of \$30 million for Dreamers. I wish something like this happened every day. At the beginning of the month, President Obama came to Lehman College and met with Lehman's Urban Male Leadership Program. It was another great day for CUNY and our students. And just yesterday, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported on the schools that produce the greatest number of MacArthur "Genius" Fellowships. CUNY graduates have won 15 awards, which places it within the top 10 of all universities in the country and second only to Berkeley among public universities. These few examples demonstrate why I believe that no place in the country better

represents the goal of public higher education—broad, affordable access to high quality education.

Of course, this being life, not everything is positive. As I am sure you know, we lost a gifted and committed member of the CUNY family, who was tragically killed during the recent Amtrak train derailment in Philadelphia. Between 2003 and 2010, Derrick Griffith was the founding principal of CUNY Prep, an important institution this Council helped make possible. In this role, Derrick helped thousands of young people earn high school equivalency diplomas and enter college. More recently, he was serving as Dean of Enrollment at Medgar Evers College. At the time of his death, Derrick had just earned his Ph.D. in Urban Education from the CUNY Graduate Center, an accomplishment that was movingly recognized at the Graduate Center's commencement ceremony this week. I am pleased to announce at this hearing that I will be asking the Board of Trustees to rename CUNY Prep *The Dr. Derrick Griffith CUNY Preparatory School*. I can think of no better way to honor Derrick's legacy and acknowledge the difference he made in the lives of thousands of students than by renaming CUNY Prep in his honor.

CUNY students richly deserve the assistance they receive and we are grateful that the City Council has consistently recognized and supported their goals. As you know, our student body is among the most diverse in the nation, with students hailing from over 200 countries and speaking 190 languages. More than 40 percent of our students come from families earning less than \$20,000 and close to 40 percent were born outside the US mainland. As this Council has recognized time and again, these students represent the city's future, and their ability to thrive is intimately entwined with the future of New York City.

In turning to the Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Budget, let me begin by saying how appreciative we are for the continued support from the City of New York for so many critical University initiatives. All New Yorkers will benefit from the priority the Mayor and the City Council have placed on higher education.

As you know, no university can be great without a great faculty. And if there's one thing that unites our faculty and staff it is a commitment to the mission of CUNY to serve its students. Last evening I hosted a group of talented community college faculty at my home, and I heard over and over again that they love CUNY because of our students and the difference CUNY makes in students' lives. These committed faculty and staff have worked without a new contract for far too many years. I support a swift and fair resolution to our collective bargaining and I hope we can realize that end so that CUNY can be competitive and retain and attract the faculty and staff who do so much for New York.

I would like to take a few moments to highlight the welcome initiatives that are funded in the Mayor's Executive Budget. A total of \$14.8 million in new dollars were added in this year's budget. Of this increase, \$10.3 million is provided for the STEM Support Expansion, a multi-year program that was initially funded in last year's Executive Budget. A major component of this support will be dedicated to expanding the successful Accelerated Study in Associate Programs, or ASAP, initiative. ASAP has become a national model for community college success, validated by independent studies and hailed by President Obama. In Fall 2014, the program served 4,300 students. With the City's investment, expansion will increase to 7,100 students in Fall 2015.

In addition to the STEM Support initiative, the Executive Budget also includes \$1.5 million for a math expansion of the CUNY Start program. CUNY Start enrolls prospective students who have been accepted to college because they have a high school or equivalency diploma, but are not ready for college-level work based on their scores on the CUNY Assessment Tests. Proficiency gains have been remarkable since the program began in Fall 2009.

We are grateful that the FY16 Executive Budget includes \$2.7 million for CUNY Prep, soon to be named for Dr. Griffith, and that these funds have been baselined in the City's financial plan. This program was established in 2003 and is a collaboration with the Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity. This permanent source of funding is largely

the result of the continued leadership and advocacy of Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chairpersons Barron and Ferreras, and Council Member Vacca. Thank you for your tremendous support.

With regard to financial aid, please be aware that the Executive Budget does not include funding for the City Council Merit Scholarships. We were very grateful that the Council, led by the Higher Education Committee and with the urging of our persuasive students, provided \$10.9 million in the current year's budget to fund this critical financial aid program. These new merit-based awards are available to deserving students at both the senior and community colleges.

In order to continue the program at current levels, and add a new cohort for incoming students in the fall, we are projecting that an additional \$17 million will be needed for CUNY's fiscal year 2016 budget. The City Council has always been a strong advocate for our students, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that these critical financial aid awards are protected.

The Executive Budget also does not include funding for the Dominican Studies Institute and the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, each of which is a leading national center of historical and cultural research. The Creative Arts Team, which provides learning opportunities for at-risk students, and the Joseph S. Murphy Institute's campus-based worker education programs are also unfunded. Your assistance in restoring funding for these important programs would make a great difference in the lives of our students.

We also seek operational support for a number of other needs critical to our students' success, like the Single Stop Initiative. In 2009, CUNY partnered with Single Stop USA, now a national program which offers centralized, one-stop assistance to students for benefits screening, tax preparation, legal services and health care assistance. Since 2009, CUNY's community college students accessed benefits, including tax refunds, legal services, and food stamps valued at \$109 million. We are seeking \$1 million to enhance

Single Stop services at our community colleges and expand the program to the senior college population.

Another such program is the CUNY Linking Employment, Academics, and Disability Services (CUNY LEADS) program, a unique partnership with the New York State Education Department. CUNY LEADS provides students with disabilities academic support, career-readiness training and job placement services. Participants have an 84 percent retention rate; those who are job-ready have a 70 percent employment rate after graduation, compared to the 56 percent national employment rate for people with disabilities. This program has demonstrated extraordinary success, and we are seeking \$1.0 million to help more students with disabilities.

Now turning to our Capital Budget:

With your help we were able to complete BMCC's Fiterman Hall and Bronx Community College's North Hall in 2012, as well as complete a \$22 million expansion and upgrade to Medgar Evers' library in 2014.

In recent years the Council has provided over \$150 million to CUNY, which has funded numerous projects, most at the community colleges where the need is great.

For instance, I am pleased to report that we have begun construction on the \$125 million new façade for LaGuardia Community College's enormous Center 3 Building—a project that must be done if the building is to be preserved.

Other major projects made possible by City Council funding are: ongoing utility upgrades at Bronx Community College; the phased renovation of Hostos Community College's 500 Grand Concourse Building; and numerous roof replacements, ADA upgrades, and modernization of heating and cooling systems.

The Council has been very supportive of CUNY senior colleges as well. You recently provided support for Brooklyn College's new Feirstein Graduate Film School at Steiner Studios, Lehman College's library renovations, soccer field upgrades at the College of Staten Island, and science lab upgrades at Queens College and York College.

The City's fiscal year 2016 5-Year Executive Budget includes a new \$70 million for critical maintenance and a few programmatic initiatives for CUNY.

For the community colleges, starting in Fiscal Year 2019, a \$20 million lump sum for critical maintenance is base-lined into the plan each year. When matched with state funds, this will create an annual \$40 million funding stream that will allow CUNY to make much-needed upgrades to community college campuses. I wish I could say this takes care of the major issues at these campuses, but that simply is not the case. Each campus still has a significant backlog of work to be completed. In addition, the cost of construction has been escalating for the past few years and is rising even higher this year.

The Executive Budget contains \$41 million for a major programmatic upgrade at LaGuardia Community College's Center 3 Building.

Critical maintenance continues to be a major capital priority at our 7 million square feet of community college facilities, three-quarters of which are over 40 years old. A recent analysis showed that the most pressing need on these campuses is infrastructure system upgrades. Continuing problems with these systems could lead to costly emergency repairs and, in some cases, major system failures. CUNY is requesting approximately \$200 million over five years for projects such as fire alarms, roofs, central plants, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and façades and windows.

We are also seeking additional funding for the future Allied Health and Sciences Building at Hostos Community College. The new facility will provide classrooms and labs for the college's allied health programs in dental hygiene, radiological technology, and nursing, and its engineering and natural science programs. The facility will offer

dental and wellness clinics, where students will gain practical experience and the public will benefit from care and education. The Council has given \$2.5 million and the Bronx Borough President provided \$2 million, which the state has just matched. We recently kicked off design of this exciting new project.

On behalf of all of us at CUNY, let me thank you again for your support of our capital program. The funding you have provided is helping us work toward a state of good repair on our campuses, and is also helping to ensure that we provide facilities to meet the needs of our students and of the many city residents that use our campuses. We look forward to working closely with you on the budget in the weeks ahead.

In many ways, the City Council members have been the quickest to see the needs that our students have. You walk the same neighborhood streets they do, your members see how each CUNY campus lifts the borough where it is situated; you work with our alumni and get to know our students and their families. You see the close connection we have with the City's high schools. For many of our students, decisions made by this Council have meant all the difference in our students' ability to complete college. I firmly believe that CUNY's students today will provide the intellectual infrastructure that will fuel this city in the days to come. CUNY students need your support as much as the city needs them to succeed and prosper.

I thank you on their behalf. My colleagues and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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I represent: CUNY

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I represent: CUNY

Address: 101 W 31 St #10001

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I represent: DYCD

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