Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is proud to be home to a world-renowned public university system that includes The City University of New York (CUNY), which provides access to a quality higher education for students from New York State and beyond; with campuses located in the five boroughs of New York City, CUNY offers outstanding educational opportunities to students from diverse economic, social, and ethnic backgrounds and, each November, the University hosts open houses showcasing the excellent resources available across its colleges; and

Whereas, in this Fall 2014 semester, CUNY student enrollment has reached record levels, with approximately 275,000 degree-seeking students, as well as nearly 240,000 adult and continuing education students, and 28,000 students in CUNY’s “College Now” program; and

Whereas, the rigor and quality of CUNY’s academic programs, along with its affordable tuition, make the University an exceptional value for postsecondary study; CUNY students continue to demonstrate their exceptional academic and leadership skills, most recently by winning a record-breaking 22 Fulbright Awards, 16 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships, and 25 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholars awards, and through their enthusiastic participation in the new CUNY Service Corps; CUNY continues to prioritize the recruitment of talented faculty to join the many University scholars who have been recognized nationally and internationally for their contributions including Fulbright Awards, Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prizes, Emmy Awards, Guggenheim Fellowships, MacArthur Fellowships, the Wolf Prize, National Book Awards, and many other honors; and

Whereas, the NY-CUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program, encourages long-term economic development implementation plans on CUNY campuses, in their areas of academic strength and provides funding to support programmatic needs, and academically aligned, sustainable long-term economic development affecting students and the surrounding community; and

Whereas, Start-Up New York, the ground-breaking initiative to attract new high-tech businesses across the state by creating tax-free zones on select, will be residence at five CUNY campuses, bringing economic revitalization, jobs and investment opportunities to these areas; and

Whereas, CUNY’s “Decade of Science” will culminate in the opening this fall of The Advanced Science Research Center, a state-of-the-art facility that will conduct interdisciplinary research in nanoscience, photonics, structural biology, neuroscience and environmental science; its scientists will drive cutting-edge research and foster new entrepreneurial partnerships with private industry; and

Whereas, to assist its efforts to promote community college education, CUNY received a $25 million endowment from the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation – the Foundation’s largest gift and the largest ever given to a New York State community college – to support the University’s new Stella and Charles Guttman Community College and two other community college initiatives, to increase student retention and graduation rates; and

Whereas, CUNY has conferred well over one million degrees over the past 40 years, including 48,000 degrees in 2013-2014, and continues to be a top producer of teachers and nurses for the city; and its alumni, including its 12 Nobel Laureates, excel in every field of human endeavor and have made extraordinary contributions to our state and nation; and

Whereas, the University’s total impact on New York State’s economy and tax base amounts to billions of dollars annually, many times the size of its budget, with graduates and employees generating millions of dollars in state and city tax revenues yearly; the vast majority of the University’s nearly 800,000 alumni continue to live in New York, enhancing the state’s quality of life and creating jobs for thousands of other New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the University continues to uphold its mission to “educate the whole person” through an accessible, high-quality academic experience, and it is fitting for all citizens to join in recognizing the University’s distinguished heritage and fundamental importance in advancing the personal and professional growth and well-being of people in New York State and beyond;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2014 as

CUNY MONTH

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State

at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twentieth day of October in the year two thousand fourteen.

[Signature]

Governor

Secretary to the Governor