State of New York

Executive Chamber

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 quality higher education for students from New York State and beyond; with 24 colleges and professional schools located in the five boroughs of New York City, CUNY offers outstanding educational opportunities to students from diverse economic, social, and ethnic backgrounds; during the month of November 2015, CUNY will host open houses and special events for students, inviting them to learn about the many resources available across its colleges; and

Whereas, as of Fall 2015, CUNY is serving a record number of 275,000 students as well as over 275,000 adult and continuing education students, and nearly 21,000 students in its College Now program, through its commitment to offering all students opportunities to fulfill their academic potential, as detailed in the University's 2012-16 academic master plan; and

Whereas, the rigor and quality of CUNY's academic programs, along with its affordable tuition, make CUNY an exceptional value for postsecondary study; four of the top five colleges named, "Best Bang for the Buck in the Northeast" by Washington Monthly were CUNY colleges: Baruch, Lehman, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Queens College; and

Whereas, the joint program between the Governor and CUNY, the NY-CUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program, to incentivize long-term economic development implementation plans, has announced its first set of awards, driven by CUNY's campuses in areas of their academic strengths; the funds provided will support programmatic needs, and provide 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 campuses, is in residence at or near five CUNY colleges, bringing economic revitalization, jobs and investment opportunities to these areas; and

Whereas, CUNY has just received accreditation from New York State for a new CUNY School of Medicine, building on the 40-year success of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education which will increase the number of medical professionals eligible to practice in New York; and

Whereas, CUNY has just launched Brooklyn College's new Barry R. Feinstein Graduate School of Cinema, the only film school of its kind to be located within a working studio, at the Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, an enterprise that will bring more film professionals to this important industry; and

Whereas, CUNY's "Decade of Science" culminated in the opening of The Advanced Science Research Center, a state-of-the-art facility that conducts 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, CUNY students continue to demonstrate their exceptional academic and leadership skills as recipients of major awards, fellowships, and scholarships, and by participating in the CUNY Service Corps, and CUNY continues to prioritize the recruitment of talented faculty to join its many scholars who have been recognized nationally and internationally for their academic contributions, as the recipients of prestigious awards and honors; and

Whereas, today, the vast majority of CUNY's alumni – nearly 800,000 graduates – continue to live in this state, enhancing the quality of life and creating jobs for thousands of other New Yorkers, and CUNY continues to have a significant impact on New York State's economy, with graduates and employees generating millions of dollars in state and city tax revenues yearly; we join in recognizing CUNY's distinguished 168-year history and its fundamental importance in advancing the personal and professional well-being of the people of New York State, as it upholds the honorable mission to ‘educate the whole people’ through an accessible, high-quality academic experience;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2015 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 twenty-first day of October in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor