SUNY Polytechnic Institute:
Year-In-Review and AY 2018/2019 Goals

SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Executive Summary: Academic Year 2017/2018

During AY 2017/2018, SUNY Polytechnic Institute continued to provide a creative, experiential learning experience to our students and conduct leading-edge discoveries and innovations to address critical societal challenges.

SUNY Poly continued to be highly ranked, rising further in the 2018 College rankings by U.S. News & World Report, which listed the institution 15th in its 2018 list of Best Colleges in the Regional Universities North category—jumping up three positions from its 2017 ranking of 18th. Additionally, SUNY Poly remained 3rd in Top Public Regional Universities North for the second year in a row. I am also proud to note that SUNY Poly rose through the rankings to 6th for Best Colleges for Veterans amid Regional Universities North.

SUNY Poly is focusing on growing its student body. We are currently welcoming a student body that is one of our largest in decades - around 3,000 students - the most since the early 1980's. As we offer an exciting, creative and experiential education at both of our campuses, we are also thrilled about our newest online programs that allow students an affordable, flexible, and top-tier education from anywhere in the world. Meanwhile, through our extensive outreach efforts, we are continuing to inspire young students in our communities with the opportunities that SUNY Poly offers in areas ranging from nursing and the liberal arts to nanotechnology and video game design.

SUNY Poly strives to enable pioneering research and innovation with increasing recognition from the research community and general public. Our faculty researchers have secured millions in funding to advance our knowledge and technologies in many areas ranging from cancer therapy to biology to advanced computing materials and devices. One nanobioscience professor and his team are focusing on research that could produce "kill switches" in cancer cells through the manipulation of RNA. A new lemur species was co-discovered in Madagascar by one of our own professors, highlighting the importance of biodiversity and the knowledge that can help maintain it. In addition, a number of our corporate partners created the world's smallest, most powerful computer chip components right on campus. In fact, the U.S. now owns the title to the fastest supercomputer in the world (which can make more than 200 quadrillion calculations per second), and the 14nm technology used in *Summit*, was developed by IBM right here at SUNY Poly. By engaging in these wide variety of areas, with the potential for the cross-pollination of ideas, SUNY Poly is leading the way in meaningful research that can make a difference for all of us in New York State—and also for our neighbors around the globe.

SUNY Poly is ready to start a new chapter. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to initiate a *Framework for a Sustainable Future*—an effort that will focus SUNY Poly's incredible strengths in the areas of academic excellence, research, and economic growth and pave the way for tomorrow's exciting opportunities.

While our society traverses challenging and exciting times, it is reassuring to know that progress is being made on many fronts—and SUNY Poly is at the forefront of catalyzing positive changes.

Academic Year 2018/2019 Goals

Goal 1: Formulate a Framework for a Sustainable Future

Objective 1: Establish a common vision for SUNY Poly

The vision of an organization is the foundation of its culture and brand. It is usually done when an organization is founded; four years after SUNY Poly was formed, it is critical to establish a common vision and set an overall direction for SUNY Poly for decades to come.

Objective 2: Lay the groundwork for the future

Building excellence of an academic institution requires effective infrastructure, as well as degree program structure; enrollment strategy and partnerships; support for research advancement and administration; faculty development; student life including dining halls, residential halls, student activity space; shared governance; financial management; Campus Facilities Master Plan; and fundraising strategy. While some of this work has been started, it is critical to pursue future activities in a holistic, strategic manner. Specifically, we will:

- Understand our key institutional challenges;
- Identify near-term opportunities to address these challenges and establish needed infrastructure; and
- Make long-term recommendations to lay the groundwork for strategic thinking in preparation of the search and onboarding of a permanent president.

Goal 2: Explore Innovative Academic Programs

Objective 1: Explore a new program structure for our Albany undergraduate programs to enrich students' life, course options, and reduce long-term program and infrastructure costs

Objective 2: Launch new initiatives for our Utica undergraduate programs to increase enrollment and better serve the regional communities

Objective 3: Grow innovative graduate programs

Goal 3: Build Research and Research Administration Infrastructure

Objective 1: Streamline research compliance and administration to support faculty, students and staff to pursue external research funding

Objective 2: Explore potential seed and bridge funding opportunities to empower faculty to grow research activities and build research leadership

Objective 3: Seek opportunities to strengthen research facilities

Goal 4: Cultivate a Transparent, Inclusive and Empowering Culture

Objective 1: Establish mechanisms for faculty development and support

Objective 2: Start the recruitment of a Chief Diversity Officer and an EOP Director to focus on cultivating a welcoming, inclusive culture and establish cultural literacy educational activities on both campuses

Objective 3: Clarify the roles, responsibilities, and organizational structure of each business unit, providing each unit with clear, achievable, and measurable objectives

Objective 4: Empower faculty and staff by introducing a structure and process for soliciting ideas and more effective communication

Goal 5: Work on a Plan for Long-term Fiscal Sustainability

Objective 1: Develop an enrollment marketing and outreach strategy to grow enrollment in the next decade

Objective 2: Establish a new Facilities Master Plan for SUNY Poly's Utica campus to plan for the infrastructure needed for enrollment growth in the next decade

Objective 3: Support the growth of economic development activities and manage the financial sustainability of SUNY Poly.