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To: Campus Administrators
From: Lora Lefebvre, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs *dlk*
Subject: Tobacco Free

In June of 2012, the SUNY Board of Trustees formally endorsed the concept of moving to a tobacco-free environment. This included seeking the legislation necessary to mandate all campuses being tobacco-free by a date certain. At that time, we were hopeful this could be accomplished by January 1, 2014. We now, however, recognize that the remaining work necessary to achieve the goal of a tobacco-free SUNY will take us beyond that original target date.

It is clear that achieving our desired outcome will ultimately require a change in campus culture. Ongoing efforts over the course of the year have provided further insights as to the hurdles we must overcome in this endeavor and solutions we can explore as we continue to move forward. In this regard, we want to commend the thirty (30) campuses for their ongoing efforts. In addition, we appreciate the valuable feedback we have been receiving. In this regard, a number of campuses have inquired as to availability of resources to support this initiative. We are currently pursuing various means by which interested campuses can obtain access to additional resources.

In order to help provide more focus and direction, we have also enlisted the assistance of a nationally recognized expert, Ty Paterson from the National Center for Tobacco Policy, in the movement throughout higher education toward tobacco-free campuses. Our success in effectuating this change in campus culture and in garnering support for our legislation will be largely dependent on your support, providing education and obtaining cooperation. To this end, we will be sponsoring regional events for the purposes of critical thinking and information sharing with participation from students, faculty, staff, alumni and other key stakeholders. In addition to these regional events, we intend to sponsor teleconferences and other opportunities to discuss issues and solutions as they arise.

In the Spring, each state-operated institution will be asked to submit a brief survey related to the activities your campus has engaged in related to the tobacco-free initiative and we invite the 'community colleges to join with us. It will highlight the challenges you are encountering and how you are planning to meet them. More information about the survey will be provided in the near future. As we await the passage of the legislation, there is much to be accomplished. We remain committed to a Healthier NY and the tobacco-free SUNY initiative. We understand that no campus can effectively achieve a tobacco-free campus without addressing both social and collective bargaining issues and that time, collaboration and full dialogue are critical to the process. The goal of a tobacco free SUNY should resonate with the goals and aspirations of our institutions, and be supported by our students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders.

Copy: Campus Presidents