



ABOUT  
SUNY

PROSPECTIVE  
STUDENTS

CURRENT  
STUDENTS

FACULTY  
& STAFF

ALUMNI &  
SUPPORTERS

ACADEMIC  
AFFAIRS

OUTREACH &  
ENGAGEMENT

RESEARCH & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

NEWS &  
INFORMATION

## Office of the Provost

Academic Affairs  
Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI)  
Office of Opportunity Programs  
Office of Health Affairs  
Institutional Research  
Innovative Instruction  
University Life and Enrollment Services  
Library and Information Services  
University Center for Academic and Workforce  
Development (UCAWD)  
Sponsored Programs  
SUNY Press  
SUNY Urban Teacher Education  
Center (SUTEC)  
SUNY Learning Network (SLN)  
SUNY Center for Professional Development  
(SUNY CPD)  
SUNY Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching &  
Technology (FACT2)

## Tobacco-Free SUNY

### Is there a difference between tobacco free and smoke free?

'Tobacco Free' is a comprehensive term that means that no form of tobacco is allowed. Smoke free means that smoke less tobacco (chew, dipp, snuff, etc.) is permitted.

### Why does SUNY want to go tobacco free?

The SUNY Strategic Plan includes goals for SUNY and a Healthier New York: The health of New Yorkers is essential to the state's economic success and few organizations, public or private, can address New York's health care challenges as powerfully as SUNY.

[http://www.suny.edu/powerofsuny/stories/healthier\\_ny/index.cfm](http://www.suny.edu/powerofsuny/stories/healthier_ny/index.cfm)

The rationale for the initiative is included in the resolution passed by the Board of Trustees in June 2012:

[http://www.suny.edu/Board\\_of\\_Trustees/webcastdocs/Tobacco\\_Free%20SUNY.PDF](http://www.suny.edu/Board_of_Trustees/webcastdocs/Tobacco_Free%20SUNY.PDF)

### What steps has SUNY taken?

- Healthy NY in SUNY Strategic Plan
- Task force created, broad representation from stakeholders – faculty, students, regional, state groups
- Board of Trustees resolution
- Work group formed – includes student representation
- Legislation developed and introduced in Senate and Assembly
- National expert on tobacco free initiatives to addressing campus presidents
- Regional workshops planned for 2013-14 to support campus efforts

### Is there legislative support for the State University to go Tobacco Free?

June 12, 2012 SUNY Board of Trustees approved a resolution supporting legislation mandating all state-operated campuses be tobacco free by January 1, 2014

June 14, 2012 Assembly member Glick introduces A.10683 at the request of SUNY pursuant to the Board of Trustees resolution

- A.10683 referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee – Not considered
- No Senate Sponsor

April 26, 2013 Senator Hannon introduces S.4853 at the request of SUNY pursuant to the BOT resolution same as A.10683 (2012)

- Referred to Senate Higher Education Committee – Not considered

May 8, 2013 Assemblyman Mosley introduces A.7277 following consultation with Assembly member Glick since Mr. Mosley had a similar bill introduced – A.6620

- A.7277 is reported from the Assembly Higher Education Committee and referred to the Assembly

Codes Committee where it was not considered further.

S.4853 – A.7277 are both active for the 2014 legislative session.

SUNY will continue to work to push this legislation forward.

### Are community colleges included in the Board of Trustees resolution and/or legislation?

Community Colleges in the SUNY system are not included in the resolution or legislation given the governance of community colleges within their respective counties within NYS. The Chancellor encourages community colleges to continue their progress in this area and to join the ongoing efforts.

### What is the current status of collective bargaining/union issues associated with this effort?

The Public Employment Relations Board has determined that smoking is a mandatory subject of negotiations for public sector employees. In brief, that means that a public employer cannot unilaterally impose a ban on smoking that pertains to its unionized employees. Each State-operated SUNY campus is a separate payroll agency with its President serving as the sole appointing authority, thereby making each such campus a separate employer. Campuses may initiate local negotiations with each of the bargaining unit chapters through a delegation of negotiating authority from the Governor's Office of Employee Relations; which can be obtained by request to the SUNY System Administration Office of Employee Relations. Although many efforts have been made over the years, only two of the State-operated campuses have been successful in reaching agreement with all of the local bargaining units on this topic. Those campuses are Cortland and Upstate

Medical University. Our legislative initiative is, therefore in some measure, intended to overcome the very slow progress of local negotiations by creating an overarching statutory mandate.

**What colleges are tobacco free?**

In March, 2013 the American Cancer Society released a New York State Dean's List. They reported that as of the time of the report, of the 204 colleges and universities (public and private) 67 (33%) were identified as completely smoke free or tobacco free. As of the point of the survey, 14% of schools were working on a policy change. [http://www.cancer.org/myacs/eastern/areahighlights/cancernynj\\_newstobacco\\_free\\_u\\_report](http://www.cancer.org/myacs/eastern/areahighlights/cancernynj_newstobacco_free_u_report)

Studies support a growing trend towards tobacco free campuses.

National listing of 100% tobacco free campuses. American Lung Association <http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/tobacco-control-advocacy/reports-resources/tobacco-policy-trend-reports/college-report.pdf>. This list is not as extensive as the one cited by the American Cancer Society (see below). Attached is listing.

Another report (<http://www.no-smoke.org/goingsmokefree.php?id=447>) listed colleges and universities by state and their progress toward the goal of being tobacco free. The study reported that two thirds of colleges are tobacco free. Many SUNY schools are listed on this report. Three university systems are cited as tobacco free: Arkansas (33 campuses) a public university system; Iowa (66 campuses); and Oklahoma (29 campuses) a public university system.

**What about e cigarettes? Are they included?**

Yes

**What data do we have about smoking?**

The American Cancer Society cited statistics provided by the NYS Dept of Health: there is an increase in first time and regular tobacco use in college students, despite significant reduction in smoking rates in the last 10 years amongst that age group in New York State. Close to 22% of college aged people in NYS are reported as smokers. This rate is more than double the number of smokers in high school. For more information on trends see: Tobacco Free College Campus Initiative [http://tobaccofreecampus.org/content/emerging\\_issues\\_campustobacco\\_policies](http://tobaccofreecampus.org/content/emerging_issues_campustobacco_policies)

**What supports are available to those who wish to stop smoking?**

On SUNY campuses, nicotine addiction is treated like other addictions. Students have access to health services, support groups, mentors, counselors, nicotine patches/gum/lozenges. Campuses will also make use and refer students to community and on line resources such as podcasts, text messaging programs, and other resources. Below are NYS resources often listed on campus websites:

- NY State Smokers' Quitline 1 866 697 8487 [www.nysmokefree.com](http://www.nysmokefree.com)
- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [smokefree.gov](http://smokefree.gov)
- [OASAS Cessation Resources](#)
- [Smokefree Women](#)

If Chancellor mentions System Admin will make resources available – how much and how do they access it? (Abbreviated RFP? Grant? Across the Board allocation based on FTE?)

**SUNY Initiative going forward:**

1. The topic of a tobacco free SUNY has been discussed with the VPs for Student Affairs, student health center directors, residence life and housing administrators, the Student Assembly Executive Council, and other groups.
2. In addressing campus presidents, the Chancellor outlined her expectations moving forward
3. A national expert has been hired to support the cultural shift needed to work toward this goal.
4. A series of regional workshops will be offered to assist campuses in going tobacco free.
5. Campuses will be asked to do a self study on progress

**What is the cultural shift in the approach that is being referred to by professionals who study the tobacco free movement?**

The emphasis on the 'personal rights' issue and 'rights' or 'laws' only serves to polarize the conversation and often does not allow for meaningful conversation about the intention of going tobacco free. Many know about the health impact of smoking and second hand smoke. A different approach to the issue will help change the basis for the dialogue so that solutions and personal, health and environmental changes can happen.

Experts who speak on this topic, such as Ty Patterson and his colleagues emphasize the following

- Respect –for others, for the planet, for each other
- Health
- Sustainability – or care for the environment.
- Social Justice

For more information please see the National Center for Tobacco Policy web site at [www.tobaccofreegreenow.org](http://www.tobaccofreegreenow.org)

**Chancellor's Message**

The Chancellor and the Board of Trustees remain committed to a Tobacco Free SUNY. "We will continue to work with the sponsors of our legislation to seek its successful passage. In the meantime, we ask that campuses persist in designing and implementing strategies to drive their campuses toward the tobacco free goal. We understand that to achieve this, a campus culture change is necessary. SUNY Administration stands ready to assist campuses with this effort."

