



The State University
of New York

Board of Trustees, Chancellor Zimpher Call For "Tobacco-Free SUNY"

June 12, 2012

Albany – The State University of New York Board of Trustees today passed a resolution to support a "Tobacco-Free SUNY" policy and the development of New York State legislation that bans the use of tobacco on grounds and facilities and in vehicles owned, leased, or controlled by SUNY.

In doing so, SUNY becomes the largest public university system in the country to adopt a comprehensive tobacco-free policy.

"Tobacco use on college campuses is a serious public health issue for which SUNY can be a larger part of the solution," said Board Chairman H. Carl McCall. "By establishing a policy that will prohibit the use of tobacco among our 468,000 students and 88,000 employees on campuses across New York, we will have a positive impact on their health and that of our visitors."

"SUNY has a responsibility to promote the health of our students, faculty, staff and visitors while they are on our campuses," said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. "I commend the Board for making the health of these groups a priority and I look forward to working with legislative leaders to develop a state law that will make SUNY 100 percent tobacco-free by the end of next year."

Today's resolution is a result of the Chancellor's Task Force for a Tobacco-Free SUNY, which included broad representation of SUNY's students, faculty, staff, campus administration, along with other partners from the community, in an effort to lead a collaborative implementation process of a tobacco-free SUNY policy.

Under current law and a policy adopted by the State University Board on January 11, 2007, smoking is banned on SUNY campuses in indoor areas, including residence halls, and in vehicles owned or leased by the State University.

Studies show that young people ages 18-24 have the highest smoking rate of all adults; and smoking contributes significantly to the risk of fires in buildings, dormitories, and other campus structures.

About the State University of New York

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States, educating nearly 468,000 students in more than 7,500 degree and certificate programs on 64 campuses with more than 3 million alumni around the globe. To learn more about how SUNY creates opportunity, visit www.suny.edu

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The State University
of New York

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MEMORANDUM

June 12, 2012

To: Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor

Subject: Tobacco-Free SUNY

Action Requested

The proposed resolution expresses support by the Board of Trustees of a Tobacco-Free SUNY policy and the enactment of legislation that bans the use of tobacco on grounds and facilities and in vehicles owned, lease or controlled by the State University or its related entities.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas one of the six Big Ideas of the Power of SUNY is SUNY and A Healthier New York; and

Whereas the State University of New York is responsible for promoting the health of students, staff and visitors while on campus; and

Whereas tobacco use on college campuses is a serious public health issue in New York State and throughout the U.S.; and

Whereas numerous studies show that young people ages 18-24 have the highest smoking rate of all adults; and

Whereas smoking contributes significantly to the risk of fires in buildings, dormitories and other campus structures; and

Whereas a Tobacco-Free SUNY policy would prohibit tobacco use anytime, anywhere by anyone on campus grounds or at campus-sponsored events; and

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Whereas studies show that campus tobacco-free policies lead to significant reductions in tobacco use by students, faculty and staff; and

Whereas many colleges across the country have already adopted comprehensive tobacco-free policies, but SUNY would be the largest public university system to do so; and

Whereas the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that tobacco-related deaths nationally number more than 430,000 per year and medical costs attributable to smoking nationally total at least \$440 billion per year; and

Whereas a Tobacco-Free SUNY policy would demonstrate the State University of New York's commitment to be responsible stewards by leading efforts to improve the short- and long-term health of our students and employees; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees supports the State University of New York's effort to require a 100% tobacco-free campus environment to include all campus buildings, parking ramps and facilities and off-campus facilities; and, be it further

Resolved that the Board of Trustees supports State legislation mandating that all SUNY campuses become 100% tobacco free by no later than January 1, 2014; and, be it further

Resolved that the Board of Trustees supports the efforts of the Chancellor's Task Force for a Tobacco-Free SUNY, which includes broad representation of SUNY's students, faculty, staff, campus administration, along with other partners from the community, in an effort to lead a collaborative implementation process of a Tobacco-Free SUNY policy.

Background

The proposed resolution expresses support for the enactment of legislation to ban the use of tobacco on all facilities, indoors and out-of-doors,

and in vehicles owned, leased or controlled by the State University or its related entities.

Under current law and a policy adopted by the State University Board on January 11, 2007 by Res. 2007- 21, smoking is banned on SUNY campuses in indoor areas, including residence halls, and in vehicles owned or leased by the State University.