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 a quality higher education for students from New York State and beyond; with campuses located in the five boroughs of New York City, CUNY offers outstanding educational opportunities to students from diverse economic, social, and ethnic backgrounds and, each November, the University hosts open houses showcasing the excellent resources available across its colleges; and

Whereas, in this Fall 2013 semester, CUNY student enrollment has reached record levels, with more than 270,000 degree-seeking students, as well as nearly 228,000 adult and continuing education students, and 20,000 students in CUNY’s “College Now” program; and

Whereas, CUNY students continue to demonstrate their exceptional academic and leadership skills, most recently by winning a record 23 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships in 2013, earning CUNY the distinction of having more NSF fellowship winners than any other public university in the Northeast, as well as through their enthusiastic participation in the CUNY Service Corps, a new initiative that connects students with citywide projects to improve the civic, economic, and environmental sustainability of New York City; and

Whereas, to assist its efforts to promote community college education, CUNY received a $25 million endowment from the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation – the Foundation’s largest gift and the largest ever given to a New York State community college – which will support the University’s new Stella and Charles Guttman Community College and two other community college initiatives, to increase student retention and graduation rates; and

Whereas, CUNY continues to prioritize the recruitment of talented faculty to join the many University scholars who have been recognized nationally and internationally for their contributions with Pulitzer Prizes, Emmy Awards, Guggenheim Fellowships, MacArthur Fellowships, the Wolf Prize, National Book Awards, and many other honors; and

Whereas, CUNY’s “Decade of Science” initiative is advancing scientific proficiency and research at every level, by enhancing CUNY’s undergraduate research programs, creating new master’s degrees, expanding Ph.D. and postdoctoral opportunities, encouraging the commercialization of research findings, and constructing the Advanced Science Research Center, which, upon opening in fall 2014, will drive cutting-edge research in disciplines such as photonics, structural biology, and neuroscience; and

Whereas, CUNY has conferred well over one million degrees over the past 40 years, including an estimated 48,500 degrees in 2012-13, the highest number in its history, and continues to be a leading producer of teachers and nurses for New York City; its alumni, including its 12 Nobel laureates, excel in every field of human endeavor and have made extraordinary contributions to our state and nation; and

Whereas, the University’s total impact on New York State’s economy and tax base amounts to billions of dollars annually, many times the size of its budget, with graduates and employees generating millions of dollars in state and city tax revenues yearly; the vast majority of the University’s alumni – nearly 800,000 graduates – continue to live in New York State, enhancing the quality of life and creating jobs for thousands of other New Yorkers; and

Whereas, with a commitment to upholding its mission to “educate the whole people,” CUNY continues to make a high quality education accessible to all, it is fitting that we join in recognizing the University’s distinguished heritage and fundamental importance in advancing the personal and professional growth and well-being of people in New York State and beyond;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2013 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 thirteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor