



NEWS RELEASE

United University Professions, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, NY 12212-5143

CONTACT: Denyce Duncan Lacy or
Don Feldstein at (518) 640-6600
Lacy's cell number is (518) 265-3114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2008

**Remarks by Phillip H. Smith,
President of United University Professions
at Coalition Rally at the Capitol in Albany
on SUNY Budget Cuts**

“We’re here today to talk about the need to invest in our communities and improve our economy. One of the best investments our state can make is investing in SUNY, the State University of New York. SUNY is the key to our future...the key that can unlock the economic potential of New York by producing an educated and talented workforce that employers are looking for.

“We need to invest in our future...our children. The \$148 million in state budget cuts to SUNY hurt our children and our future.

“Because of these cuts, and the threat of more cuts in the future, our kids may not have access to an affordable, high-quality college education. Even if our kids have good grades — tens of thousands of them will be denied admission to SUNY’s four-year schools. I’m talking about qualified high school students and qualified community college students who want to transfer to SUNY. They are going to find the doors to higher education closed.

“Our kids may not be able to graduate on time. Fewer faculty will be there to teach the courses they need to graduate.

“Do you want to pay for an extra year of college?

“Should New York state be closing the door to opportunity for college students?

“In tough times like these, an affordable college education is more vital than ever. New Yorkers who have lost their jobs look to SUNY to learn new skills.

“Tell our state’s elected officials to keep the doors of higher education open to all.

“Tell state leaders SUNY is the solution to the state’s fiscal crisis.

“Let’s work together and fight for the funds needed to develop an educated workforce that will speed our economic recovery.

“Let’s keep SUNY strong.”

UUP represents 35,000 academic and professional faculty on 29 New York state-operated campuses and is an affiliate of New York State United Teachers, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, and the AFL-CIO.