



# NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

## 2026 JOINT BUDGET HEARING

February 24th, 2026 – 12:30 PM

### HIGHER EDUCATION

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1. State University of New York

John King Jr.  
Chancellor

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2. City University of New York

Felix V. Matos Rodriguez  
Chancellor

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3. New York State Higher Education  
Services Corporation

Doris Gonzalez  
President

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4. New York State Department of  
Education

Betty A. Rosa  
Commissioner

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#### **Panel A:**

5. Professional Staff Congress-  
CUNY Local 2334

James Davis  
President

6. United University Professions

Frederick Kowal  
President

7. New York Community  
College Trustees

George Cushman  
Chair

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 8. Faculty Federation of Erie<br>Community Colleges | Andrew Sako<br>President                                    |
| 9. NYS University Police                            | James McCarthy<br>PBA President<br>And Lieutenants Director |

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**Panel B:**

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|--|---|
| 10. University Student Senate CUNY   | Akkeem Polack<br>CUNY Senate Chairperson &<br>Trustee                     |
| 11. State University of New York Student<br>Assembly                                 | Luca O. Rallis<br>President & SUNY Trustee                                |
| 12. Graduate Students Employees Union<br>Of the Communications Workers Union<br>1104 | Bradley Hershenson & Shirley Jin<br>Business Agent &<br>Steward/Organizer |

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**Panel C:**

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|---|---|
| 13. Association of Private Colleges                                   | Donna Stelling-Gurnett<br>President                           |
| 14. Commission on Independent<br>Colleges and Universities            | Lola Brabham<br>President                                     |
| 15. Higher Education Opportunity<br>Program Professional Organization | Aaron Ray<br>President  |
| 16. Cornell University  | Charlie Kruzansky<br>Associate VP for Government<br>Relations |
| 17. Association for Program<br>Administrators for CSTEP & STEP        | Dr. Renaldo D. Alba<br>President                              |

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**Panel D:**

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| 18. New York Public Interest Research<br>Group | Blair Horner<br>Senior Policy Advisor   |
| 19. Friends of the NYS Liberty<br>Partnerships | Elizabeth Altman<br>President   |
| 20. New York State Academic Dental<br>Centers  | Jennifer Tassler<br>Vice President of Government<br>Relations & Strategic Affairs |

21. The Institute for College Access  
& Success

Kirsten Keefe  
Senior Director of Policy  
and Advocacy for NY

22. Fostering Youth Success

Deidra Nesbeth  
Director