



Photo by Mike Lisi

UUPers Michael Christakis, far right, and Karl Luntta, third from left, discuss the SUNY NY-Alert emergency communication system with university administrators and members of the University Police department during a Web training seminar at UAlbany. Pictured, from left are Aran Mull, senior staff associate, University Police; Christine Bouchard, vice president for student success; Luntta, director of media relations, and Christakis, assistant to the vice president.

UUPers: Keeping SUNY campuses safe

School is in session and UUPers across the state are hard at work keeping campuses safe for students, academics and professional staff.

For example, campus safety was on the minds of UAlbany UUP members, who took part in an August training session on how to use updated computer software for the SUNY NY-Alert emergency communication system.

Several UUPers joined university administrators and members of UAlbany's University Police department for the Web seminar, made available to SUNY campuses statewide by the New York State Emergency Management Office, which oversees the SUNY NY-Alert system.

"These days, I think it's absolutely critical for a campus of our size to be able to get our emergency messages out in very short order," said UUPer Michael Christakis,

assistant to the vice president. "(SUNY NY-Alert) allows us to do that in a very seamless way."

UAlbany began using SUNY NY-Alert two years ago and was one of the first SUNY schools to employ the system; as of September, 58 two and four-year SUNY campuses were part of the SUNY NY-Alert system.

SUNY NY-Alert is a Web-based emergency alert system where news and updates of major campus emergencies such as shootings, fires, severe weather or water main breaks, can be sent to students and faculty via e-mail, text message, telephone and cell phone messaging, Web pages, fax, and other communication outlets.

In its October issue, *The Voice* takes a comprehensive look at safety issues on SUNY campuses statewide.

Higher ed access, affordability a concern to Biden, Iannuzzi

In his role as NYSUT president, Richard Iannuzzi has participated in his share of higher education panel discussions over the years.

But Wednesday (Sept. 9) was different.

That day, Iannuzzi joined Vice President Joe Biden and Education Secretary Arne Duncan aboard Air Force 2, part of Biden's invitation to take part in a panel discussion on college access and affordability at Syracuse University. The trio flew in from Washington, D.C. to attend the event.

A number of UUPers were at the forum, including Executive Board member Brian Tappen, Upstate Medical University Chapter President Carol Braund and John View, Chapter President at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Hundreds of educators and students attended the meeting.

"I thought it was a great panel discussion," said Braund. "Joe Biden very much promoted the need for a smoother way for families to access higher education."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, NEA President Dennis Van Roekel and SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher were also on the panel, which reviewed ways to help middle class families save and pay for college.

During the 90-minute discussion, Biden outlined proposals the Obama administration believes will make college more affordable for middle class students, including providing billions of dollars for student loans and grants, streamlining the aid application process, and revamping loan repayment plans for graduates.

Reminders/Upcoming meetings

- **Sept. 25**—NYSUT Executive Committee meeting, Albany
- **Oct. 1**—UUP Executive Board meeting, Rochester
- **Oct. 2-3**—2009 Fall DA, Rochester
- **Oct. 30-31**—Chapter Presidents and Leadership Workshops, Cooperstown

(excerpts of selected newsclips)

The Legislative Gazette —Sept. 8

UUP: SUNY can't sustain more cuts

This front-page article, based on a UUP news release, reports on the effects that prior budget cuts are having on SUNY campuses, as students headed back to classes for the fall semester.

"The union that represents faculty at 29 state university campuses says, as students head back to school this month, the quality of their education is threatened because of cuts to the current SUNY budget.

"For more than a year we've been sounding the alarm about how devastating the budget cuts to SUNY are and will be to students, their families and communities," said United University Professions President Phillip Smith. "So much of what we projected has unfortunately come to pass..."

Full story available at:

http://www.legislativegazette.com/read_more.php?story=4114

The Chief —Sept. 4

UUP leader fears toll SUNY cuts may take

This front-page article, based on a UUP news release, is devoted to an interview with UUP President Phil Smith. It zeroes in on the situation students face as they return to their respective SUNY campuses where prior budget cuts are taking their toll. Smith said staff cuts, hiring freezes and an increased reliance on part-time faculty are among the methods campuses are using to deal with reduced budgets. He predicted that mid-year cuts on the horizon could devastate schools that have already been cut to the bone.

"Students and educators returning to State University of New York colleges as the school year begins are in danger of a decreased quality of education because of severe budget cuts by the state, United University Professions President Phillip H. Smith warned last week....

"SUNY is going to take various steps to redress its situation, and many of those things include fewer courses, fewer faculty and overcrowded classrooms..."

Full story available via paid subscription at:

<http://www.thechief-leader.com/news/2009/0904/news/003.html>

Press & Sun-Bulletin —Sept. 3

SUNY chancellor finishes whirlwind tour of state campuses

UUP President Phil Smith reacts to new SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher's remarks delivered during an Albany news conference. She reflected on her just-completed tour of all 64 SUNY campuses, including community colleges. Zimpher said campuses are aware of the need to reallocate funds from past to future priorities to deal with state budget cuts.

Phil Smith, president of United University Professions, said he appreciated Zimpher's statement about readjusting priorities "because I do know that SUNY is going to have to use its money wisely.

"I think we're going to be faced with a mid-year cut," he said, referring to Gov. David Paterson's plan to call the Legislature back into session this month to deal with the state's \$2 billion deficit.

Full story available at:

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20090903/NEWS01/909030373/SUNY+chancellor+finishes+whirlwind+tour+of+state+campuses>

Similar versions of this article also appeared in the Poughkeepsie Journal, Ithaca Journal, Elmira Star-Gazette and the Albany Times Union.

Newsday —Aug. 31

New SUNY chancellor completes 64-campus tour

At Herkimer County Community College — the last stop on her summer tour of every SUNY campuses — new SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher talks about her overall impressions of the University. In these difficult economic times, Zimpher said she was committed to keeping SUNY affordable, a goal echoed by UUP President Phil Smith.

The sullen economy has led to "a surge in applications as more and more families look to send their children to SUNY as an affordable alternative," said Phillip Smith, president of the professors' union. "We can't afford to provide the next generation of New Yorkers with a less than top-notch higher education..."

Full story available at:

<http://www.newsday.com/news/new-york/new-suny-chancellor-completes-64-campus-tour-1.1410399>

This story also appeared in the Utica Observer-Dispatch, Dayton (Ohio) Daily News and other newspapers.

TIMES UNION —Aug. 27

Union decries campus cuts

A portion of the newspaper's weekly Campus Notebook column is devoted to coverage of UUP's news release, warning of the consequences of prior budget cuts that SUNY students are facing upon their return to classes.

"Smith points out in a prepared statement that campuses across the state have cut staff and positions, imposed hiring freezes, and increased class sizes and their reliance on adjuncts..."

"When enrollment at SUNY is expected to reach record levels, this is the worst time to sacrifice quality by cutting faculty and courses and increasing class sizes," Smith said. "The state of the economy has led to a surge in applications, as more and more families look to send their children to SUNY as an affordable alternative..."

Full story available at:

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=835330>

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER ED —Aug. 25

For-profit colleges see large increases in enrollment and revenue

As the headline suggests, this article reports that while nonprofit colleges are struggling economically, many for-profit colleges are prospering.

"...many for-profit institutions are reporting record increases in student numbers and revenue—a sign that the recession is prompting more adults and nontraditional students to seek career training.

Among 10 of the largest for-profit college companies, enrollment during the quarter ending June 30 was anywhere from 12 to more than 100 percent higher than it was during the same period last year. Most companies saw their enrollment increase by at least 20 percent.

Full story available via paid subscription at:

<http://chronicle.com/article/For-Profit-Colleges-See-Lar/48173/>