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STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

December 20, 2005

Mr. John R. Ryan
Chancellor
State University of New York
University Plaza
Albany, NY 12246

Re: Report 2005-F-18

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Pursuant to the State Comptroller's authority as set forth in Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution; and Article II, Section 8 of the State Finance Law, we have followed up on the actions taken by officials of the State University of New York at Albany (University) to implement the recommendations contained in our audit report, *University at Albany Network Security Controls* (Report 2004-S-23).

Background, Scope and Objective

The State University of New York at Albany (University) offers undergraduate and graduate education in a broad range of academic fields at the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree levels. Currently, nearly 12,000 undergraduates and more than 5,400 graduate students are enrolled in nine University colleges and schools. University computers help perform many tasks, such as recording grades, tracking financial aid and providing e-mail capability and Internet access.

Our initial audit report, which was issued on March 1, 2005, examined selected aspects of the security controls in place over the University academic and administrative network (Network). The objective of our follow-up, which was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, was to assess the extent of implementation, as of November 9, 2005 of the recommendations included in our confidential report. Due to the sensitivity of the information and the potential risk associated with the release of such information, the details of the recommendations and their implementation status are not included in this report. However, we discussed the detailed results of our follow-up work with University officials during the conduct of the review.

Summary Conclusions and Status of Audit Recommendations

Overall, we found that University officials have taken significant actions to implement the recommendations contained in the confidential report, however some additional steps are still needed.

Major contributors to this report were Brian Reilly, Nadine Morrell, Mark Ren and James Edge.

We thank the management and staff of the University for the courtesy and cooperation extended to our auditors during this audit.

Very truly yours,

Steven E. Sossei
Audit Director

cc: Robert Barnes, Division of the Budget
C. Kevin O'Donoghue, University Auditor