



The State University
of New York

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EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE

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OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI
COMPTROLLER

Office of the
Chief Financial Officer

State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

www.suny.edu

April 4, 2017

Honorable Thomas DiNapoli
Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, New York 12236

Dear Mr. DiNapoli:

In accordance with Section 170 of the Executive Law, this is our 90-day response showing actions taken to address the recommendations contained in the State Comptroller's Audit Report on Selected Procurement and Contracting Practices, State University of New York (2014-S-19). Our specific comments to the recommendations follow.

Recommendation 1: Remind campuses of the need to comply with important procurement policies, including, but not limited to, documenting that prices are reasonable.

Response: SUNY continues to conduct presentations and hold discussions related to procurement requirements at the SUNY Purchasing and Business Officers Association conferences. In addition, information related to procurement requirements have been emailed to SUNY Procurement and Business Officers.

Recommendation 2: Update the procurement card policy related to cardholders' transaction limits to be more consistent with campus needs and business practices.

Response: SUNY is in the process of updating the Procurement Card Policy and Procedure Manual and will remove the reference to specific transaction thresholds. Each campus is responsible for establishing transaction thresholds based on its risk tolerance.

Recommendation 3: Enhance efforts to encourage campuses to identify, share, and adopt common best practices to manage costs and ensure efficiency.

Response: SUNY continues to discuss at our conferences and webinars, common best practices to manage costs and help ensure efficiency. For example,

- *SUNY has entered into several University-wide contracts to offer campuses better pricing, standardize terms and conditions, and eliminate the need for individual campus contracts. SUNY continues to explore other opportunities with similar benefits. These contracts, and suggestions for other opportunities, are discussed via conference presentations and webinars.*

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- *SUNY has recently contracted with and is working with SciQuest to implement an end-to-end e-procurement solution for several pilot campuses. The goal is to reduce administrative costs, improve compliance with procurement regulations, eliminate multi-campus redundancies and leverage SUNY's buying power for better contracts. It is expected that, the solution will be made available across the SUNY system.*

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Eileen McLoughlin
Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and
Chief Financial Officer

Copy: Chancellor Zimpher
Provost Cartwright
Mr. Abbott
Mr. Porter
Ms. Hengsterman
Ms. Fagnoli
Mr. McGrath
Ms. Bee-Donohoe
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