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STATE OF NEW YORK  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER**

September 25, 2008

Dr. John B. Clark  
Interim Chancellor  
State University of New York  
State University Plaza  
Albany, New York 12246

Re: Report 2008-F-15

Dear Chancellor Clark:

According 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's System Administration to implement the recommendations contained in our audit report, *Network Security Controls* (Report 2006-S-25).

**Background, Scope and Objectives**

System Administration, which oversees SUNY operations, has created a computer network (Network) to help carry out its duties. SUNY employees use the Network to access the Internet and email, and shared files. System Administration's Office of Administrative Systems' Technical Services (Technical Services) maintains the Network. This includes supporting all servers, hardware, and software, setting up desktop computers, and managing network devices.

System Administration must comply with the Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination's Cyber Security Policy (Security Policy) that defines a set of minimum information security requirements that all State entities must meet related to securing systems and data. In addition, the Security Policy requires that each State entity establish a framework for information security within the entity.

Our initial audit report, which was issued on January 17, 2007, examined selected aspects of the security controls in place over the Network. The objective of our follow-up was to assess the extent of implementation of the recommendations included in our initial confidential report as of September 17, 2008. Due to the sensitive nature 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 System Administration officials during the conduct of the follow-up.

## **Summary Conclusions**

Overall, we found that System Administration officials have taken actions to implement the recommendations contained in the confidential draft report; however, some additional steps are still needed. System Administration officials generally agreed with our conclusions and will take additional actions to fully implement the recommendations.

Major contributors to this report were Nadine Morrell, Mark Ren, Jennifer Van Tassel, and Mark Abraham.

We thank System Administration management and staff for the courtesies and cooperation extended to our auditors during this review.

Very truly yours,

Brian Reilly  
Audit Manager

cc: Tom Lukacs, Division of the Budget  
Michael Abbott, University Auditor