



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Velmanette Montgomery

Albany Pulse - April 8

VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY April 12, 2011

State Budget that closed the State's \$10 billion deficit through the enactment of some deep spending reductions. The budget calls for \$132.5 billion in overall spending, a more than two percent reduction from last year's budget. State operating spending will total \$88 billion, an increase of \$1.2 billion or 1.4% over last year: the overall spending decline reflects the loss of federal stimulus-related support.

While there is some good news to report on the higher education budget front, we must be mindful that overall spending reductions to SUNY and CUNY will impede the operation of some colleges. In addition, some students who now qualify for aid under the State's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) will soon be ineligible for this assistance because of new eligibility criteria set forth in the budget.

The operating aid to SUNY and CUNY has been significantly reduced in an effort to address the State's deficit. Funding for SUNY and CUNY has been cut by \$100 million and \$70 million, respectively.



degree granting program from \$5,000 to \$4,000. (Students attending an institution offering both two and four year degree programs will not be impacted, nor will students enrolled in a certificate or degree in nursing programs or in a community college.)

Other TAP changes include:

- Private pension and annuity income will be used in determining TAP eligibility effective July 1, 2011;
- Graduate students will no longer be eligible for TAP;
- Effective July 1, 2011, all students who are in n default on statutory New York State or Federal loans would be ineligible for TAP awards, regardless of the guarantor; and
- Maximum awards for independent students who are married without children will be reduced from \$5,000 to \$3,025, which is consistent with the award provided to single adults with no children. This change takes effect July 1, 2011.

On a much more positive note, funding was maintained for the Higher Edu-