



## Empowering Youth

Our cutting-edge research in disciplines ranging from **education** policy to **public health**, enhanced by our commitment to **civic engagement** and an ecosystem approach to **workforce development**, enable youth throughout the world to better access economic and social opportunities; share in economic growth; live healthy lives; and contribute to household, community, and national wellbeing.

**Civic and Community Engagement:** SUNY's commitment to community engagement helps youth acquire the knowledge and skills they need to play active and constructive roles in their communities and societies. Youth engagement is a key component of SUNY/Center for International Development (SUNY/CID) programs.

- In Afghanistan and in Haiti, SUNY/CID sponsored youth parliaments designed to educate youth about the legislative function, while allowing them to voice policy concerns on the national stage.
- In Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Guatemala and Chile, SUNY/CID developed prestigious legislative internship programs that created a constituency of young and informed professionals who are active contributors to their country's futures. The students earned valuable academic credit and made significant, long-term contributions to the hosting legislatures.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, SUNY/CID partners with a leading youth civil society organization to shape legislation on environment and education to promote youth employment and to analyze government expenditures related to youth. SUNY/CID also trained a cadre of student journalists to cover parliament and created parliamentary outreach programs targeting young people.

**Education:** Our [Department of Educational Administration & Policy Studies \(EAPS\)](#) faculty members are authorities on education at all levels and possess in-depth expertise in how education systems contribute to community and economic development. They have:

- Served on the Working Group on Standards and Evaluation of the [Program to Promote Educational Reform in Latin America \(PREAL\)](#)
- Consulted on testing, standards and educational indicators for the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the US Agency for International Development, as well as for ministries, foundations, school districts, and research institutions throughout the Americas.
- Consulted on the linkages among a variety of institutional, governmental and civil actors to promote a unified system of support in areas such as education and health in countries such as The Netherlands, Romania, Brazil, Iran, Australia, New Zealand, Slovakia, and England.

**Policy and Research:** The [Rockefeller Institute for Government \(RIG\)](#) and the seven centers associated with the EAPS conduct cutting-edge research on the relationship between education and workforce development. For example, RIG conducted a study of applied learning initiatives in Australia, Finland, Germany, and Switzerland.

**Data Driven Approaches to Programming:** SUNY scholars and centers, such as the [Educational Evaluation Research Consortium \(EERC\)](#), develop new knowledge on educational, social and workforce programming. For example, the EERC is currently studying the relationship between opportunities to learn and student outcomes, training of university faculty in research methods and the development of evaluation and research studies in teacher content and pedagogical knowledge, students' mathematics and reading knowledge and performance, and support for testing and evaluation efforts in the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Education.

**Health:** SUNY's work in health enables youth to be better served by local and national health institutions, with special focus on HIV/AIDS. We support capacity building programs with partner institutions at home and in 19 priority countries on four continents. The [University at Albany School of Public Health \(SPH\)](#) is a unique partnership between the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and SUNY that combines the academic resources of the SUNY system with the state-of-the-art applied professional resources of the NYSDOH.

- SPH's partnership with the [New York State International Training and Research Program](#) began in 1994 as an AIDS International Training and Research Program and expanded its profile to Emerging Infectious Diseases, TB and Global Infectious Diseases. It now operates in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The program has trained over 7000 health care professionals in the region.
- [SPH's Center for Global Health](#) engages a wide range of global partners to create educational programs and design health interventions to help solve today's most critical global health problems. In Georgia, the Center strengthened capacity to deal with an intravenous drug user (IDU)-mediated HIV epidemic by training and mentoring Georgian graduate students who later established the International School of Public Health at the Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU) to train new generations of Georgian public health professionals.
- In 2009 the School of Public Health became the first graduate school within the SUNY system to partner with the Peace Corps through the [Peace Corps Masters International \(MI\) Program](#), through which Master of Public Health students can combine their graduate studies with global health field experience in developing countries.

**Workforce Development:** SUNY's leadership in educating youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce includes:

- [Young Entrepreneurs Academy](#) (YEA!) (middle and high school students) and [Blackstone LaunchPad entrepreneurship program](#) (college students) trains them on how to start and run their own real businesses.
- [Empire State STEM Learning Network](#), a community-led collaborative advancing the interdisciplinary teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to prepare youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.
- [Economic Development Ecosystems](#), which SUNY pioneered to integrate its educational strategy with community and economic development. This approach links research and innovation (the seeds of economic development) with entrepreneurship (the cultivation of those seeds) and with business development (growing the innovations and human capital).
- [Business and Education Cooperative of the Southern Tier](#), where senior staff from key economic and educational institutions develop workforce programming for traditional and emerging industry clusters.
- [Cradle to Career Alliance](#), a partnership to promote a comprehensive approach to workforce development from Pre-K-12 schools through higher education and into the work environment. This internationally recognized strategy has been adopted by the Ministry of Education in Malaysia and has been studied by the Ministry of Education in Kenya among others.
- [University Center for Academic and Workforce Development](#) leverages the academic resources of SUNY to promote the acquisition of education and skills through 10 Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs) and two Career Counseling and Outreach Centers.
- [Centers of Excellence](#) foster collaboration between the academic research community and business to develop new products and technologies (such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, environmental etc.), promote critical private sector investment, and create technology-related businesses and jobs.
- Vocational education through its network of [30 community colleges](#).