

To: ESF Campus Community

From: Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., President

Date: March 1, 2010

Re: Changes in SU Dependent Tuition Benefit

Since my communication to you on 1/22/10, there have been significant and productive discussions with Chancellor Nancy Cantor and Provost Eric Spina of Syracuse University concerning the SU tuition benefit extended to the dependents of ESF faculty and staff. I think that we have a much better solution to share with you today.

The following represents a summary of the modified program as presented by Provost Eric Spina on behalf of Chancellor Nancy Cantor:

“SU will continue to provide full tuition waivers to all current ESF employee dependents who are already studying at SU, consistent with current policy and practice. Further, ESF employee dependents who will enter SU in Fall 2010 will also receive full tuition waivers for their course of study, again consistent with current policy and practice.

For ESF employee dependents who enter SU after Fall 2010 (expecting that the first large cohort will be in Fall 2011), SU will provide a tuition waiver of 85% for all ESF employees, no matter the salary level. We will structure this as an SU grant for each employee who accesses this opportunity, and the grant funds will be “last dollar in” so that we will want families to fill out a financial aid application so that they are eligible for Pell and Tap and similar opportunities. We note that a 15% co-pay currently would be approximately \$5K or roughly the same level as SUNY tuition. Families who have need will be able to work with our Financial Aid Office to become eligible for low-interest loans to offset the co-pay.

ESF Employee dependents also will continue to have access to Say Yes scholarships at SU (and other higher education partners), and we will be pleased to provide more information about this current and future opportunity to your employees as you see fit.

We also agreed that the 85% dependent tuition waiver will not be available for employees hired after September 1, 2010. We remain committed to making SU highly accessible to the families of these employees, however, both through the strong need- and merit-based financial aid programs that we have at SU and through the Say Yes program.

Finally, we reiterated that ESF employees will continue to have the same opportunity for remitted tuition at SU that SU employees will have themselves.”

I am pleased with the progress that we have made to largely protect the benefit for our faculty and staff. It is clear that Chancellor Nancy Cantor and Provost Eric Spina value the relationship and the synergy that exists between ESF and SU. It is the most unique public/private university partnership in the U.S.

In March the Syracuse University Board of Trustees must approve this proposal along with the changes to their own benefits program. I will keep you advised if there are any additional modifications.

Best regards,

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