SUNY & UAlbany Inaugurate the System's First Leadership Academy for Women

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The State University of New York issued the following news release:

SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher and UAlbany President George M. Philip were joined by members of the business, nonprofit and government communities in the greater Capital Region today for the inauguration of SUNY's first Women's Leadership Academy.

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher said: "The Women's Leadership Academy is going to be an incredible asset as we seek to bring more young women into the leadership pipelines for government and public policy. There is still an urgent need to help women make their way into these positions, where we still do not approach equal representation. I am proud to be a part of the founding of this academy, which will do so much to provide that opportunity to SUNY's students and all New Yorkers."

"Balanced leadership is a strong component of better business and government outcomes," said President Philip. "The Women's Leadership Academy will expand educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and advance the pace of progress in women's leadership."

The Women's Leadership Academy is a program of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at UAlbany. The purpose of the Academy is to strengthen participants' self-efficacy, leadership capacity and capabilities.

Sue Faerman, UAlbany's vice provost for Undergraduate Education and Academic Chair of the Academy, said, "In establishing the Academy, we expand the educational opportunities for women seeking leadership positions, and provide undergraduate and graduate women with the opportunity to build and strengthen their public service leadership skills. The Academy focuses, broadens and deepens the University's efforts to bring the world within reach."

Areas of emphasis include: knowledge of policy-making processes and ways women can influence these processes; leadership ethics, principles and approaches of women political and policy leaders; understanding of how political campaigns are organized and run; recognition of the critical importance of diversity in enriching democratic political participation; skills in community organizing and advocacy; and commitment to advancing women's leadership on a personal and collective level.

The Academy incorporates two major programs that together serve as a catalyst to train, prepare and promote women in public leadership:
* The Center for Women in Government & Civil Society's (CWGCS) Fellowship on Women & Public Policy, a six-month leadership-development program over the past 27 years has graduated 284 women who occupy public policy leadership positions across the state and nation; and

* NEW Leadership New York, a part of the National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Network, which sponsors a week-long undergraduate leadership development program for women that instills knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for effective political engagement and community organizing. Its first program at UAlbany will be held June 5-11, 2011.

NEW Leadership TM New York at UAlbany becomes part of a network of more than 20 colleges and universities in other states currently delivering the program. Students will be recruited from New York State colleges and universities. Participation will also be open to New York State residents enrolled in out-of-state colleges or universities.

CWGCS, a research and policy center of UAlbany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, advances excellence in public service by facilitating balanced leadership and promotes gender-responsive public policy that is shaped by women's perspectives. The Center utilizes research, teaching, training and public education to accomplish its mission.

Currently, 2.4 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are women; women hold only 18 percent of leadership positions in industry nationwide; and New York ranks 24th among the states in the proportion of women in the state legislature.

About UAlbany

Educationally and culturally, the University at Albany puts "The World Within Reach" for its 18,000 students. An internationally recognized research university with 56 undergraduate majors and 115 graduate degree programs, UAlbany is a leader among all New York State colleges and universities in such diverse fields as public policy, nanotechnology and criminal justice. With a curriculum enhanced by 300 study-abroad opportunities, UAlbany launches great careers.

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