

# Message FROM THE COLLEGE FOUNDATION



Dear Friends:

It doesn't take a crystal ball to predict SUNY Delhi's future. The major trends are clear:

- State aid will continue to decline. When I began my career at SUNY Delhi in 1981, New York State provided nearly 80 percent of our operating aid. Today, it's plummeted to 20 percent.
- Tuition and fees will continue to rise in the face of declining state support. Over the last decade, tuition has increased by 55 percent and fees have risen by 95 percent.
- Rising costs at the State University of New York will make it even more challenging for students and their families to finance a Delhi education and that is my greatest concern.

Thanks to strategic planning and sound financial management, SUNY Delhi has been able to weather these challenges and produce exceptional results. Examples include:

- Capturing national attention for academic excellence and educational innovation.
- Awarding more than \$270,000 in student scholarships through the College Foundation last year, a 34 percent increase over the previous year.
- Expanding housing options at Riverview Townhouses. A 50-bed addition, now under construction, will increase the apartment complex to 120 beds, providing good students who are good citizens with a highly attractive housing option.
- Attracting over 400 graduates and guests to Alumni Weekend, the largest turnout in more than a decade.
- Launching plans for SUNY Delhi's 100th anniversary in 2013.

I'm also pleased to report that alumni giving showed a modest increase, a result that is particularly encouraging in this challenging economic environment. I'm continually impressed by the alumni I meet. There is one consistent theme that I hear—SUNY Delhi provided you with the foundation for educational and career success.

Please remember the Delhi spirit when our student callers contact you this year. The needs of our students are great:

- 47 percent of Delhi students come from families whose household income is below the poverty level.
- Unmet financial need forced Delhi students to borrow more than \$14 million last year.
- 39 percent of Delhi students are first generation college students.

Thank you for your past support and please give generously in the coming year. Your gifts will ensure that future Delhi students have the same opportunities that were available to you.

Also, if you would like to know more about giving options and tax-deductible opportunities, don't hesitate to call us at 607.746.4520. Our advancement team is ready to help you explore how you can make a difference in the lives of current and future Delhi students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel M. Smith".

Joel M. Smith  
*Executive Director*  
*College Foundation at Delhi, Inc.*