



UNIVERSITY  
AT ALBANY

State University of New York

# Advancing Our Success

THE 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends and colleagues:

I am very proud to share the University at Albany's Annual Report for 2018-2019—a year that has been particularly special for us as we celebrated the 175th anniversary of the University's founding.



On May 7, 1844, the New York State Legislature voted to create the New York State Normal School, which is now the University at Albany. That act led to the creation of the extraordinary public research university that is today's UAlbany—with

three campuses, more than 17,500 students, and 180,000 alumni spanning the globe.

In marking this major milestone, we remain committed to inspire the aspiring; to create a climate where diverse voices thrive; and to support great minds to lead the charge, challenge convention, and turn possibilities into promise.

This report highlights some of the accomplishments and major events that have helped us meet these commitments and realize the goals of our strategic plan, *Authoring Our Success*. This has truly been a banner year for UAlbany—with new academic programs and experiential learning opportunities, increased research activity, major capital improvements, and numerous athletics championships.

We also surpassed the \$130 million mark in our \$150 million fundraising campaign, *This is Our Time*. Gifts to the campaign are expanding scholarships, supporting faculty research, and initiating innovative programs for our students. In addition, we raised \$31 million, making 2018-19 the most successful year for fundraising in the University's history.

As we close out the celebration of our 175th academic year, we will continue to honor UAlbany's history, build on our recent achievements, and reach toward our vision *to be the nation's leading diverse public research university*.

*Go Great Danes!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Rodríguez'.

HAVIDÁN RODRÍGUEZ  
PRESIDENT



## OUR MISSION

The University at Albany is an engine of opportunity. Fueled by our unique mix of academic excellence, internationally recognized research, and world-class faculty, we relentlessly pursue possibilities, create connections, and open opportunities—locally and globally—with a single-minded purpose: **To empower our students, faculty, and campus communities to be the authors of their success.** *This is the University at Albany.*

## OUR VISION

To be the nation's leading diverse public research university—providing leaders, knowledge, and innovations to create a better world.

## OUR VALUES

**Access:** To enable individuals to pursue learning, research, and service regardless of economic, societal, or physical factors.

**Integrity:** To be committed to—and expect from all—honesty, transparency, and accountability.

**Inclusive Excellence:** To value diversity of all forms, academic freedom, and the rights, dignity, and perspectives of all individuals.

**Common Good:** To work collectively and collaboratively to benefit our communities—and create a sustainable way of life on earth.

## OUR PRIORITIES

**Student Success** is at the center of all we do;

**Research** drives our **Excellence**;

**Diversity and Inclusion** are intrinsic to our success;

**Internationalization** increases our visibility and impact across the globe;

**Engagement and Service** foster partnerships with reciprocal benefits.



## STUDENT SUCCESS

By promoting academic achievement and personal growth, we prepare UAlbany students to succeed in their careers and in all aspects of their lives as engaged citizens.



### ENHANCING STUDENT SUCCESS WITH WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS

Through the expansion of UAlbany's Student Success Centers, increasing the Student Emergency Fund, establishing a food pantry and opening Purple Threads, a clothing shop providing students access to donated professional clothes for interviews and internships, we addressed several nonacademic factors that impact student success. In addition, we launched UAlbany WAY (Well-Being and You), a holistic well-being program focused on five pathways: mindset, mastery, movement, meaning, and connection.



### POSITIONING GRADUATE STUDIES FOR GROWTH

By streamlining marketing, promotion, and management of our graduate programs, UAlbany's newly established Graduate School aims to increase graduate enrollments, promote interdisciplinary research and education, and diversify the graduate student body. This alignment will also connect students to career pathways, scholarships, and grant opportunities—enhanced by new investments aimed at recruiting top doctoral students.



### EXPANDING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING WITH A HIGH-TECH DRONE LAB

As part of our commitment to expand high-impact practices, we continue to expand experiential learning opportunities. In spring 2019, the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) transformed a former gymnasium into a drone training lab. The two-story, 1,700 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility augments the College's National Center for Security & Preparedness (NCSP) drone operations training for law enforcement, EMS and fire agencies—and will provide new capabilities for the center's training and research and development efforts.

#### OTHER STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS:

**Undergraduate Research Scholarships** to provide financial support for undergraduate research projects and travel expenses to present at regional and national conferences.

**Great Dane Internship Scholarships** to expand access to the critical real-world experiences gained through internships.

**Great Dane Community Service Scholars** to provide additional opportunities for service-based internships—creating hands-on learning that benefits students and the community.

Increased funding for the **Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement (CURCE)**.



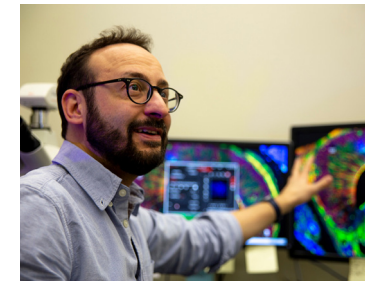
## RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Strengthen UAlbany’s research, scholarship and creative pursuits that address societal challenges, advance human knowledge, and drive innovation and discovery.



### GROWING OUR ORGANIZED RESEARCH

By advancing a wide array of support services, faculty development offerings, and research incentive programs, this year we increased extramural funding with a particular focus on organized research. Enhanced proposal and grant writing workshops, seed funding, and the promotion of interdisciplinary research resulted in a 22.5% increase in organized research—from \$39.5 million to \$48.4 million.



### SECURING A HEALTHY SPIKE IN NIH FUNDING

With increased training, mentoring and faculty development initiatives, this year nearly 30 UAlbany faculty members contributed to an impressive spike in NIH funding in several disciplines including biology, chemistry, psychology, anthropology, public health and life sciences. In 2018-19, UAlbany researchers were awarded \$22.9 million in 39 new NIH grants—a 54.7% increase over last year.



### EXPANDING OUR REACH WITH MORE FUNDED INVESTIGATORS

Across the University, we continue to see an increase in the number of funded researchers. And this year we reached a new high, with 274 funded investigators. Among the diverse projects in our research enterprise are investigations into causes of fibrosis, anthrax transmission among African wildlife, exposing deep fake videos, violence within social networks, opioid use and suicide, ideologies of terrorist organizations, and the connection between sea ice loss and rapid warming in the Arctic.

### OTHER STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS:

**Presidential Fellowships for Doctoral Students** to attract high-quality doctoral students with “top off” or summer support awards, and high-paying research fellowships in targeted programs to improve the quality, quantity, and efficiency of faculty research and increase external funding applications and awards.

**Transdisciplinary Research Opportunities** to add research infrastructure capacity and launch new seed funding programs to strengthen the University’s success in competing for transdisciplinary federal research grants.



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

UAlbany's diversity – in our people and our ideas – drives excellence in everything that we do.



### DIVERSIFYING OUR FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

While 37% of our undergraduate students are underrepresented minorities, our faculty and graduate students do not reflect that level of diversity. As part of our strategic goal to diversify our faculty and graduate students, we launched a mentoring program for faculty of color and women in STEM fields. We also created a visitation program to serve as a pipeline to graduate study for students at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs).



### SETTING THE BAR FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

UAlbany has consistently been recognized as a national model for our success in recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented minority students at rates that exceed the national average for public doctoral-granting universities. This year we continued to receive accolades for our outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. *Insight into Diversity*, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education, named UAlbany a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) awardee in recognition of our campus-based initiatives, student success, and hiring practices.



### WEAVING DIVERSITY INTO CAMPUS CULTURE

Through our Diversity Transformation Awards, this year we selected seven collaborative proposals to engage the campus community in meaningful dialogue around contemporary issues. The winning proposals included programs on environmental justice, linguistic diversity among Hispanics in New York, and leading with cultural intelligence. We also held regular campus-wide *Conversations for Change* on topics such as freedom of speech and micro-aggressions.

### OTHER STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS:

Convened the **Women in Higher Education Initiative**, which is working with campus stakeholders to develop mentoring, professional development, and best practices that support the success of female faculty and staff.

Appointed a team to develop an **NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation proposal** focusing on systemic improvements to women's participation in STEM fields.

# INTERNATIONALIZATION

Prepare our students to be globally engaged citizens while expanding UAlbany's international visibility and impact.



## PARTNERING FOR PEACE CORPS SUCCESS

This year, the University at Albany became the first SUNY campus to be selected as a Peace Corps Prep program partner. By joining the program, UAlbany undergraduates from any major can take advantage of courses and mentoring to increase their chances of acceptance into the U.S. Peace Corps. In addition to helping create a more diverse pipeline of Peace Corps volunteers, this program supports our goal of ensuring our graduates become globally engaged citizens.



## LEARNING THROUGH HIGH-IMPACT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

In June 2019, UAlbany undergraduate students from our Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (DAES) enriched their classroom experience with an NSF-supported expedition to the Greenland Ice Sheet. The trip offered students an opportunity to explore atmospheric and space science issues on the island. With help from UAlbany's drone lab to map conditions, the students' experiment results will help record a snapshot of the current state of Greenland's climate conditions.



## CULTIVATING AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ECOSYSTEM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In 2018, UAlbany celebrated the 40th anniversary of our Intensive English Language Program (IELP), which has served over 10,000 students from more than 112 countries. IELP offers English for Engineering and Business English, among other areas. In addition to combining language learning with American cultural experiences, this highly successful program serves as a powerful pathway for international students to enroll in degree programs at UAlbany from baccalaureate to Ph.D.

## OTHER STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS:

Increased **international research and academic collaborations**, finalizing six transfer agreements, 17 memoranda of understanding, and seven dual-degree agreements.

Funded **Education Abroad Scholarships** to provide need-based financial aid for UAlbany students to participate in education abroad experiences.

**Built stronger relationships in Latin America and the Caribbean**, including the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Costa Rica, and Ecuador.



## ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE

UAlbany will continue to serve as an integral regional, national and international partner and anchor institution.



### CATALYZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

By engaging the campus community and Capital Region in the life of the University, we create a seamless path that encourages life-long learning and engagement. This includes the BIG EVENT, part of a national day of service where 1,200 UAlbany volunteers (students, faculty, staff, and community members) participated in 41 volunteer opportunities with 19 community agencies. The University also partnered this year with the United Way of the Greater Capital Region to help the campus community find service opportunities and track volunteer hours.



### GATHERING THE COMMUNITY AROUND A LOVE OF READING

In September 2018, we hosted the inaugural Albany Book Festival, led by UAlbany's acclaimed NYS Writers Institute. The Festival featured individual and panel presentations by nationally acclaimed authors and attracted 5,000 participants from the community. In addition to several national authors such as Doris Kearns Goodwin and UAlbany alumnus Gregory Maguire, the Festival featured a ceremony installing Coulson Whitehead as New York's 12th State Author and Alicia Ostriker as New York's 11th State Poet.



### DEPLOYING A SYSTEMS APPROACH TO EDUCATIONAL INEQUITIES

We established The Systems Center to focus UAlbany's collective assets on a problem-based commitment to equity, in closing disparities in education and social systems in New York's Capital Region and beyond. The persistent disparities in our communities and lagging education indicators are a local and national crisis and can only be effectively confronted by system-level approaches. The Center tackles these systemic challenges by serving as a boundary-crossing and bridge-building mechanism that benefits the University as well as external constituencies.

### OTHER STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS:

Convened a group of college and university presidents across the Capital Region to collaborate on issues of common interest. Now established as the **New York Capital Region Higher Education Council**, the organization is developing an agenda to raise the Capital Region's profile as a national destination for higher education.

Hosted the inaugural **Safe Learning Environments Summit**, bringing together educators, elected officials, law enforcement and mental health professionals to improve the safety of K-12 schools and college campuses.

Created a **Public Engagement Provost Fellowship** to integrate public engagement as an important component of promotion and tenure.



## G R O W T H   A N D   O P P O R T U N I T Y

The 2018-2019 academic year was clearly an exciting one for the UAlbany community. Here are a few other reasons we're celebrating – and looking forward to what the future holds.



### ADVANCING UALBANY'S STORY

In Fall 2018, UAlbany launched *This Is Our Time: The Campaign for UAlbany*, its most ambitious fundraising campaign with a plan to raise \$150 million to strengthen resources for scholarships that build opportunity and excellence, faculty research that tackles the world's biggest issues, and initiating innovative programs that enhance the student experience. We also refreshed our institutional branding with the “Unleash Greatness” identity system and won several prestigious awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



### CELEBRATING GREAT DANE EXCELLENCE ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM

Five UAlbany students were recognized by SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson as Scholar-Athletes for outstanding academic excellence and athletic achievement. The students hailed from five different sports and contributed to four of our eight America East Conference championships during the academic year. In addition, Track and Field's Tara Belinsky was honored as the America East Woman of the Year.



### BUILDING A UNIVERSITY FOR THE FUTURE

In 2018, we broke ground on a state-of-the-art facility on the Harriman State Office Campus. This complex, which will be UAlbany's largest academic building, will house a constellation of academic units focused on the most critical challenges facing humankind—climate and environmental issues, emergency preparedness, cybersecurity, and risk management. We also continued work on the former Albany High School on our Downtown Campus and completed renovations on the newly named Catskill Building on our Academic Podium, which is now home to our School of Education.

#### OUR MAJOR GOALS FOR 2019-2020:

**Increase our retention and graduation rates** through a number of initiatives including student advising, faculty mentoring, and high-impact practices.

**Expand our research capacity** by increasing externally funded research and our focus on interdisciplinary collaborations.

**Continue to build our philanthropy**, including reaching the \$140 million mark in our comprehensive campaign.

**Grow our international enrollments and partnerships** by strengthening existing relationships and cultivating new collaborations.





## THANK YOU

to our extraordinary faculty and staff, our talented students, our high-achieving alumni, and our committed partners and friends for advancing UAlbany's success.

