



JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE SUNY FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THE SUNY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE ON UKRAINE

We all watch with dismay the events that have been unfolding these past weeks in Ukraine. There is [no justification for this invasion](#) launched by the Russian leadership. Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine as they resist this aggression and care for their loved ones. The unnecessary suffering and loss resulting from this invasion is heartbreaking.

The Russian state's violent, deadly, and destructive attempts to redraw borders, overthrow governments, control civil society, besiege cities, and threaten civilians is part of a worrisome trend: the growth of autocracy and authoritarian movements across the globe and at home. We endorse the [Statement on Ukraine](#) by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, including its emphasis on the critical role that higher education, and liberal arts education in particular, can play in guarding against this rise of authoritarianism. [Colleges and universities across the country are taking action](#) in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine; it is time for SUNY to become more involved.

We call on SUNY to:

- Support our students from Ukraine whose lives have been disrupted by this conflict, including offering in-state tuition as has been done in the past for [other groups of students affected by crises at home](#); and provide assistance as needed to students from throughout the region, including our Russian students.
- Support our colleagues from Ukraine (e.g., our Collaborative Online International Learning [COIL] and Study Abroad partners), and consider [providing remote positions for Ukrainian refugee scholars](#).
- Review all SUNY investments to divest any holdings from Russian-owned enterprises or companies that do business with Russia.
- Showcase the scope and value of research, expertise, and scholarly debates within SUNY on the history, geopolitics, political economy, and cultures of Ukraine, its neighbors, and its region.