



The downside of hiking out-of-state tuition

By Scott Waldman
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Keep looking.

That's the message to state officials who think raising out-of-state tuition for the State University of New York campuses will bring in much-needed money during these dire economic times, according to a new study from the Rockefeller Institute.

A 2009 report by the state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's office said SUNY could gain \$85 million a year by raising its out-of-state tuition for undergraduate students to the national average. **But the Rockefeller Institute study found that raising tuition costs for students from outside of the state would actually cost New Yorkers more money by hurting the competitiveness of our institutions of higher education.**

The Institute found that higher tuition rates on SUNY's seven doctoral-granting research institutions could fund additional staffing and capital investment without harm-

ing enrollment. That's because tuition at SUNY's research institutions is 28 percent, or almost \$5,600, lower than the national average for such institutions.

However, raising tuition for nonresident students would harm most SUNY campuses because their average cost is closer to that of other state university systems, according to the report. That means those campuses could lose students.

The report found that students moving to New York from other states end up staying here — a valuable commodity for fighting brain drain in upstate New York — and they annually generate more than \$25,000 in local economic activity in tuition, fees, room and board charges, books and living expenses.

The study refers to the Pennsylvania state university system, which increased nonresident tuition in the 1990s and subsequently lost 40 percent of its enrollment from outside the state. Those enrollment declines shifted more costs to state taxpayers and in-state students.