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January 8, 2009

Dr. Constantine Curris
President
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
1307 New York Avenue, NW
Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20005-4701

Dear Deno:

The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities enthusiastically supports AASCU's 2009 *Public Policy Agenda*. The Coalition continues to endorse the work being conducted by AASCU in the public policy arena, specifically in those areas that focus on the special circumstances surrounding universities that are housed in urban and metropolitan settings.

The Coalition works to develop strong partnerships with government aimed at focused efforts within urban and metropolitan regions, including homeland security, workforce, and urban revitalization and development. We also endeavor to ensure that federal and state public policy continues to focus on affordable access to higher education and workforce needs. Of specific concern are science, technology and engineering majors, information technology majors, teachers, nurses and other health care professions.

These goals overlap many of the goals and sentiments in the AASCU *Public Policy Agenda*. Working together, our organizations can drive public policy which will strengthen the ability of our metropolitan universities to step forward as stewards of place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Diner".

Steven Diner
Chancellor, Rutgers University – Newark
President, CUMU