



The State University  
of New York



# RAM

Research Aligned  
Mentorship Program

**Farmingdale  
State College**  
State University of New York

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# THE RAM PROGRAM

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Regardless of major, the RAM Program provides extra benefits and rewards that will enhance learning and that will give RAM scholars opportunities not available to other students.



# HOW DO RAM SCHOLARS BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM?

## ADVANTAGES

### RAM Scholars receive:

- Individualized advisement
- Priority registration for classes
- One-credit RAM courses designed to prepare scholars for real-world learning, scholarship, and creative and/or professional endeavors
- A digital advisement roadmap designed to fit each scholar's interests and to create a clear path to graduation and beyond
- Two meetings with a RAM counselor each semester, in addition to once-a-semester with a faculty advisor from each scholar's major
- A lounge/workroom on campus reserved exclusively for RAM scholars
- Invitations to special workshops and events
- Hands-on research or a project-based learning experience with a faculty mentor

The U.S. Department of Education funds the RAM Program in order to fulfill its mission of promoting student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.



## THE BIGGER PICTURE

### RAM scholars are a part of something **BIG**

The RAM Program relies on evidence that participants are benefiting from the program, for future funding and program development. Therefore, an important part of participation is that scholars give feedback on all facets of the program when requested.

This is an opportunity for RAM scholars to succeed here at Farmingdale State College, and influence how others will experience this program at FSC and other schools in the future! We value all scholars and their opinions, and we look forward to hearing from everyone.

**We're all in this together in an effort to build the best prepared work force in the world!**

## THE 5 PILLARS OF SUCCESS

### Enhanced preparation

Be prepared for graduation and beyond through RAM courses, advisement, and special events in the first two years at Farmingdale.

01

### Hands-on learning experiences

Be paired (after sophomore or junior year) with a faculty mentor to engage in hands-on research or in a project-based learning experience.

02

### Career building

Add experience and skills to scholars' resumes, enhancing their job prospects or their acceptance into graduate school.

03

### Increased likelihood of graduating on time

Save time and money by staying on track to graduate in four years.

04

### Networking opportunities

Meet professionals in their field, opening additional opportunities for research or project-based learning experience, and for better job prospects.

05





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# WHY RAM? WHY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH?

The Research-Aligned Mentorship program was designed to lower the college drop-out-rate, increase graduation rates, and get students more opportunities for success and advancement in their fields.

The majority of entering college students are undecided about their future plans, especially in their first year or two of college.<sup>1</sup> But RAM program scholars receive holistic counseling in their first two years to keep them on track to graduate in four years with a clear plan for success.

RAM scholars will find mentorship from RAM program staff in their first two years. They will then be paired with a faculty mentor in their major with whom they will conduct research or work on a project before their junior year. Studies have shown that college students who receive such close mentorship tend to have higher GPAs, complete more credits, and are less likely to drop out of college than students who receive no mentorship.<sup>2</sup>

Undergraduate students who participate in mentored research experiences or project-based learning experiences are more likely to pursue graduate degrees in their field. This means a greater return on your education later. Reports indicate that people with a master's degree earn higher salaries than those with only a bachelor's degree in almost every field (see Figure 1).



DATA FROM Payscale's 2015-2016 COLLEGE SALARY REPORT

<sup>1</sup> Cuseo, 2005

<sup>2</sup> Campbell & Campbell, 1997





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# COURSE SEQUENCE

Earn between 5 and 15 credits toward your major!

## **RAM 101** First-Year Seminar (1 credit)

SEMESTER 1, YEAR 1

This course assists new students in transitioning from high school to college. It is reserved exclusively for students in the Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) Program. Through group work, active listening, and class discussions, students will gain invaluable experiences navigating Farmingdale by engaging in writing, problem solving, and public speaking. They will also learn to turn to each other and to RAM program faculty and staff for support.

## **RAM 102** Math Collaborative Learning Workshop (1 credit)

SEMESTER 1, YEAR 1

Collaborative Learning Workshops are an integral part of the Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) program. In the Workshops, students master material in challenging foundational courses such as Mathematics. Faculty facilitators provide worksheets that students - organized in small collaborative working groups - use to solve problems while deepening their understanding of course material, acquiring strong study skills, and developing support groups. Enrollment is restricted to students who have been selected to participate in the Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) program and who enrolled in a foundational course to which a collaborative learning workshop is attached (e.g., MTH 110, MTH 129).

## **RAM 201** Introduction to Research (1 credit)

SEMESTER 1 or 2, YEAR 2

RAM 201 is a course reserved exclusively for students in the Research Aligned Mentorship Program (RAM) that will introduce sophomores to research and graduate study in preparation for a faculty-mentored research experience. Throughout the course, students will be responsible for written reflections on scholarly journal articles. The course will culminate in a semester-long project that engages the student in writing a research proposal that requires students to read and summarize scholarly articles accessed through the college's electronic library databases. The research proposal will be evaluated as a poster presentation, which is delivered orally in class at the end of the semester.

## **RAM 303-312** Research Experience (3-12 credits)

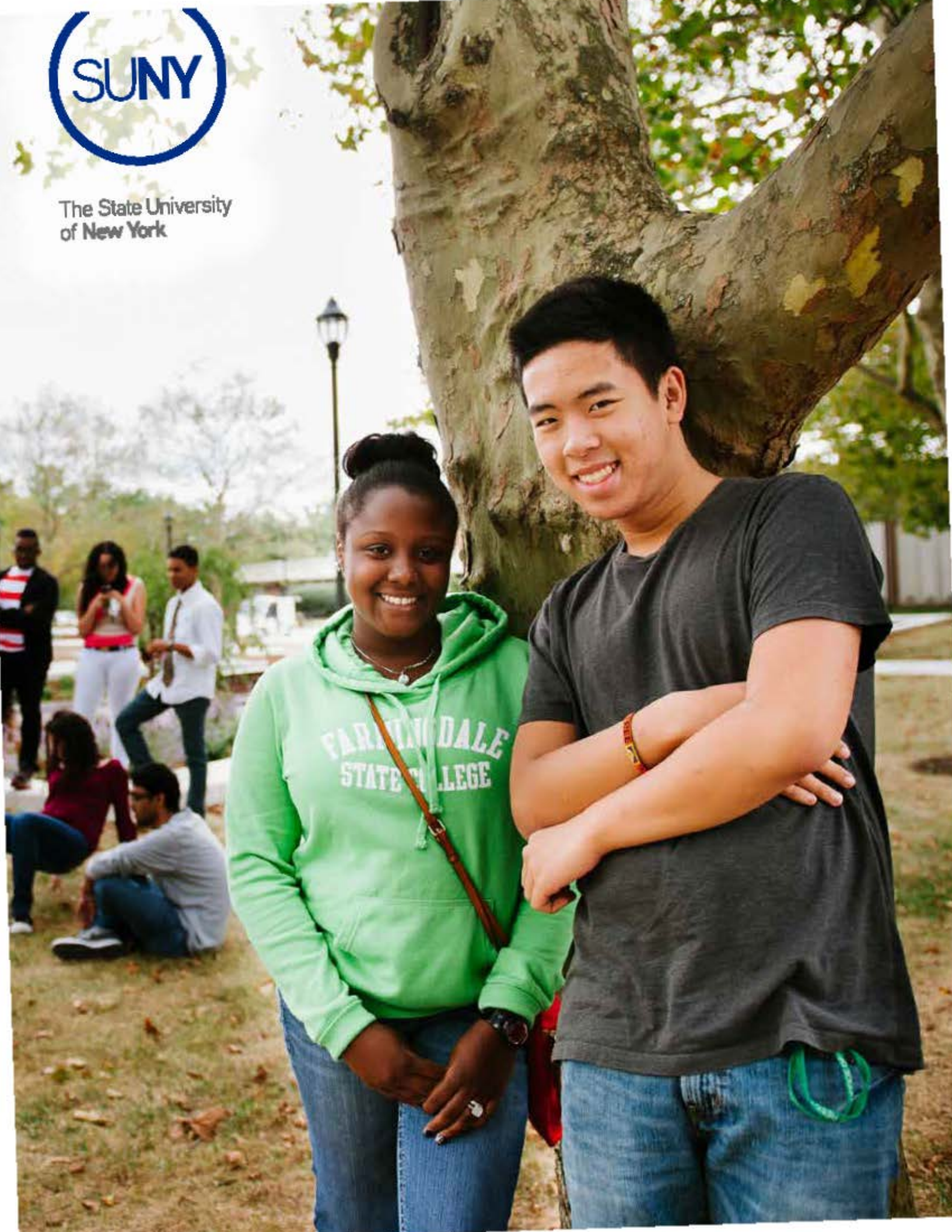
SUMMER BETWEEN YEAR 2 AND 3, AND BEYOND

This hands-on research experience with a faculty mentor is the culminating experience for students enrolled in the Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) program. The research experience will typically take place in summer after the second year for students who enter the RAM program as first-year students. Students will be placed in research experiences on the Farmingdale Campus or off-campus in major universities, research laboratories, businesses, industry, government, horticultural gardens, and other settings that fit their academic interests and career goals. Variable credits will be earned depending on placement and hours spent in mentored research.





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ATTENTION RAM SCHOLARS

## SAVE THE DATES!

Two RAM Program events are happening this summer...

### RAM Summer Kick Off

Choose from these two-day sessions:

**Monday, July 20, 2020 and Tuesday, July 21, 2020  
or Monday, July 27, 2020 and Tuesday, July 28, 2020**

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Lunch will be served!*

Meet your Class of 2024 RAM Scholars, RAM counselors and directors, RAM Student Leadership members, key Farmingdale support staff, and learn all you need to make a successful transition to Farmingdale State College.

**Parents are welcome to attend on the first day of the kick-off!**

**Please RSVP by July 1 at: [bit.ly/ramkickoff2020](https://bit.ly/ramkickoff2020).**

THE FIFTH ANNUAL

### RAM Program Welcome Event

**Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

**10:50 a.m. – Noon**

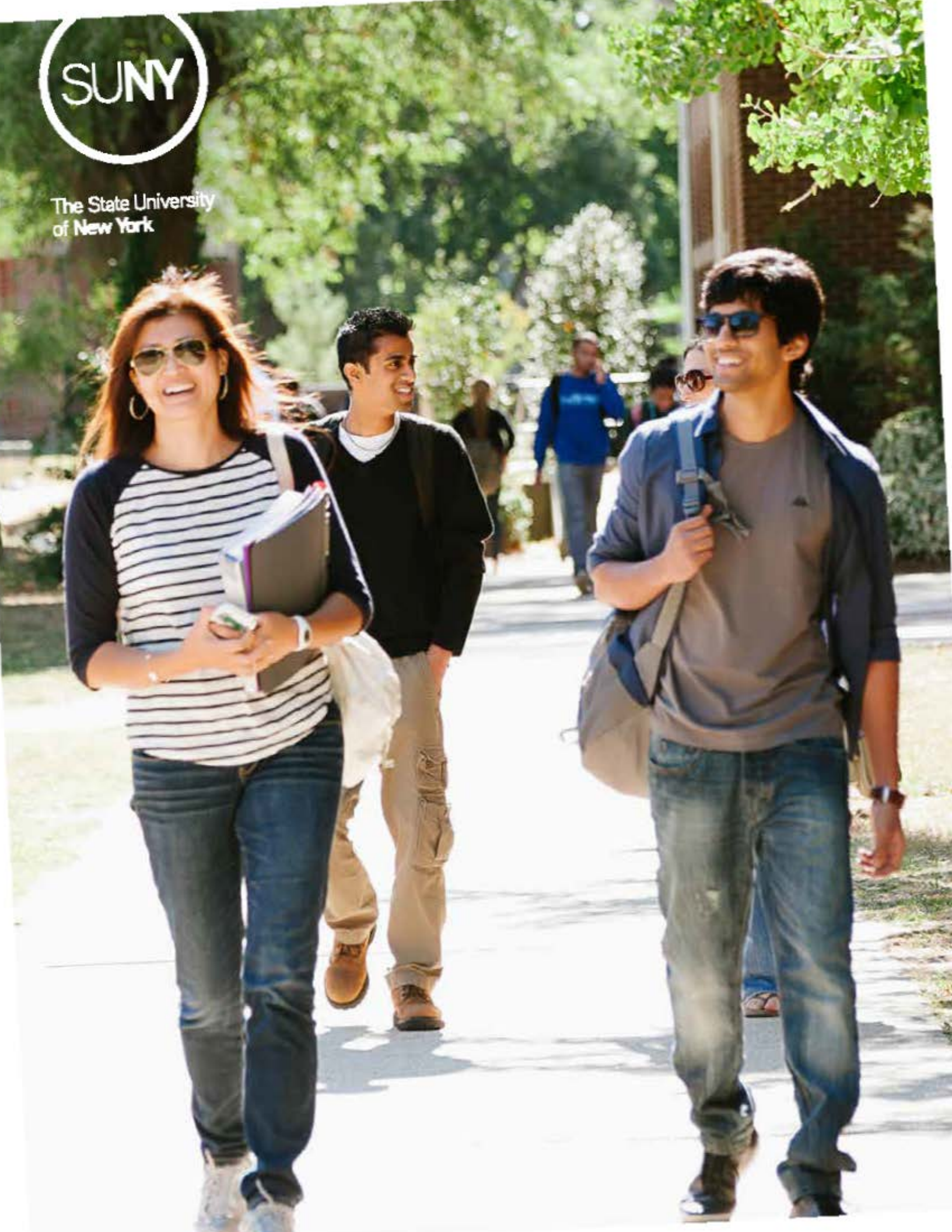
Parents and students! Please join RAM scholars and staff, esteemed administration, faculty, and members of the FSC community as we launch the  
**Fourth Cohort of RAM Scholars!**

*Food and beverage will be served at this event.*

**Please RSVP by August 1 at: [bit.ly/ramwelcome2020](https://bit.ly/ramwelcome2020).**



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# MEET THE STAFF



**Dr. Erwin Cabrera** *Director*

Dr. Cabrera finds inspiration in the quote, “To whom much is given, much is required.” As a proud product of the UMBC Meyerhoff Scholars Program, Dr. Cabrera is delighted to be working in higher education. Before joining Farmingdale, Dr. Cabrera worked in the laboratories at NYU Medical Center where his research focused on the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease. Dr. Cabrera aims to make a broader impact through uplifting the next generation of young scholars and bridging the academic-science world to the community.



**Dr. Lisa M. Cullington** *Assistant Director*

Dr. Cullington is a teacher at her core. Throughout her career, Dr. Cullington has taught students from kindergarten to the doctoral level with her teaching philosophy of “we rise by lifting others.” Dr. Cullington’s research investigates how discourses of race and gender influence educational leaders. By focusing on social justice education and community building, Dr. Cullington is excited to bring her critical research perspective to the RAM program.



**Joanna Breitman** *Counselor*

Joanna has over five years of experience working with students. As RAM Counselor, Joanna’s responsibilities include personalized advising, tracking and monitoring student progress, and teaching first-year experience courses. She advocates for her students and works closely with various student service and academic departments in order to best assist them. She is enthusiastic about encouraging student success and supporting students in reaching their goals.



**Dylan Gafarian** *Counselor*

Dylan has had the privilege of working with many outstanding students at several colleges and universities here on Long Island. As a RAM Counselor, Dylan is dedicated to assisting students achieve their academic goals and overall personal successes. In addition to teaching first-year experience courses, Dylan is extremely passionate about student leadership development, creativity, and social justice.



**Sarina Turbendian** *Administrative Coordinator*

Sarina is a proud Farmingdale alumna (2014) of the Professional Communications department. She was the president of Golden Key, the recipient of several awards, including the SUNY Chancellor’s Award and a 2013 UUP Scholarship, and served as an editor of school’s old online newspaper, the Rampage. She recently received her master’s in Popular Literature from Trinity College Dublin, but Farmingdale kept calling her back. As Administrative Coordinator, Sarina is the first point of contact and is here to provide support to all RAM students and the program itself.



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Greenley Library, Lower level  
934-794-5403

[farmingdale.edu/ram-program](http://farmingdale.edu/ram-program)