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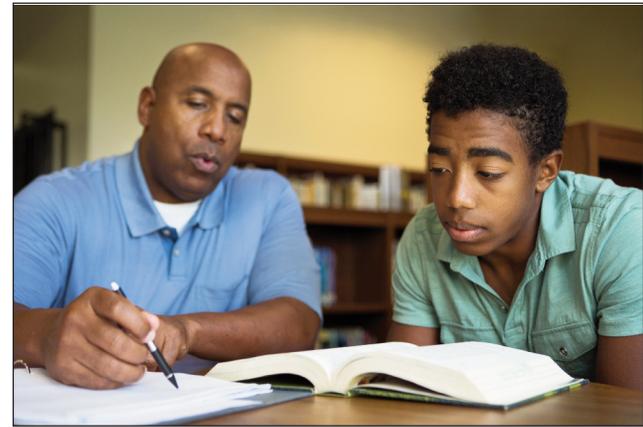
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**SUNY EOP and EOC**

**HELP ALL STUDENTS SUCCEED!**



SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs) provide low-income New Yorkers with crucial academic services and job training to help them excel in higher education and the workforce.

UUP urges the Legislature to restore and expand funding for SUNY's highly effective opportunity programs—and create a pilot teacher recruitment opportunity program—to help ensure ALL students have the opportunity and support needed to succeed in college and in the workforce.

**Increased state funding for SUNY opportunity programs secures access and affordability for educationally and economically underserved students.**

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (EOP)



EOP helps economically and educationally underserved students gain access to college and succeed through tailoring support to meet students' specific needs. This support includes summer college preparation; tutoring and supplemental instruction; workshops; and academic, career and personal counseling.

More than 70,000 EOP students have graduated from SUNY since EOP's inception 50 years ago.

EOP works! The SUNY program is one of the most successful of its kind in the country, with a graduation rate higher than the national average. Unfortunately, state funding cuts have made admittance into the EOP extremely competitive. Tens of thousands of students apply for fewer than 3,000 spaces.

EOP SUNY graduates go on to successful careers in a wide range of fields including law, science, engineering, medicine, the arts, business and government. Most EOP graduates choose to remain in New York, contributing to the economic and social fabric of their communities.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS (EOCs)

SUNY's EOCs have pioneered the way in providing New York state communities with innovative educational programs to help disadvantaged and adult students succeed in college and the workplace. SUNY EOCs have helped educate hundreds of thousands of students during their more than 50-year history, and currently provide services to more than 20,000 adult students across the state.

EOC academic programs prepare students for enrolling or re-enrolling in college, and EOC vocational programs prepare students for gainful employment and economic self-sufficiency.

EOC programs include basic education, English as a second language, GED and college preparation. Those programs narrow the digital divide with technology training and accessibility, and industry services to support training and skill upgrades. EOCs help lead students on a path to productive, successful employment.

## BUILD ON THE STATE'S EOP/EOC SUCCESS MODEL TO HELP ADDRESS THE LOOMING TEACHER SHORTAGE

UUP proposes piloting a teacher opportunity program, creating a school-to-career pipeline to recruit teachers. From 2009-2014—the most recent available data—the number of students entering teacher education programs declined by 46.5 percent. Additionally, there is a driving need to increase diversity in New York's elementary and secondary teaching ranks.

This pilot teacher opportunity program (modeled after the highly successful EOP/EOC programs) would recruit and educate future teachers from under-resourced, high-needs, underrepresented and economically disadvantaged communities throughout New York state. The program would provide the ongoing academic support and career guidance necessary for our students to successfully become New York state's future teachers.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

## SUPPORT AND EXPAND SUNY'S PROVEN OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

These programs help SUNY meet its mission of access and opportunity for all New York state citizens. Higher education leads to greater lifetime earnings, which all New Yorkers deserve. The return on investment of these programs is significant for New York state. EOC and EOP graduates become successful, productive taxpayers and contributing members of their communities.

UUP asks the Legislature to expand EOP and EOC programs—and create a pilot program to recruit teachers—to ensure the availability of higher education to New York's most economically at-risk students.