

For-profit colleges want a piece of private college scholarship program

By KESHIA CLUKEY

ALBANY — The state's for-profit colleges, looking to counter a potential decline in enrollment because of the state's Excelsior scholarship program, want to be included in New York's enhanced college tuition assistance program, which currently benefits nonprofit private schools.

"New York's final budget disadvantaged nearly 40,000 students attending the state's private degree-granting proprietary colleges by not allowing them to apply for the new Enhanced Tuition Award," Donna Gurnett, president of the Association of Proprietary Colleges, said in a statement provided to POLITICO New York. The association has 14 member colleges.

The 2017-18 state budget passed in April includes \$87 million for the highly publicized

Excelsior scholarship, which covers in-state tuition at the state's public two-and four-year SUNY and CUNY schools for eligible students coming from families earning \$100,000 annually.

The budget also includes \$19 million for an "Enhanced Tuition Assistance" program (ETA).

The state's private for-profit colleges were not included in the measure and are unable to participate.

Presidents and administrators from the proprietary colleges will descend on the state Capitol on Tuesday, calling on lawmakers to support a bill expanding the ETA to their students.

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Donna Gurnett., President & CEO of APC.

"The important takeaway is choice. Students choose to attend APC member colleges and they deserve the same opportunity to reduce their student loan debt as the students who choose to attend a SUNY, CUNY or private not-for-profit college," Gurnett said.

Please Note: *The information contained in this news clipping is excerpted from the Politico NY (May 8, 2017). You can access the complete article at: <https://www.politicopro.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2017/05/05/for-profit-colleges-call-on-lawmakers-to-include-them-in-private-college-scholarship-program-111845>*