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## Students hope to change their fortune on TAP funding

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In an attempt to “change the fortune of New York students,” members of the Association of Proprietary Colleges, appropriately enough, handed out fortune cookies containing messages about the Tuition Assistance Program to lawmakers last week.

APC held a luncheon last Tuesday in the Legislative Office Building where over 100 members, including faculty and students, talked with lawmakers and their staffs about the TAP program.

According to Basil Anastassiou, a spokesman for APC, 70 percent of the group’s students receive TAP, which he called “an avenue for students to use.”

A recent graduate of Westchester college came to help advocate on behalf of the group. Kevin Callanan was happy the Senate and Assembly both rejected the governor’s proposal to up the credits needed to receive TAP from 12 to 15.

As a student, Callanan said he counted on TAP; without it he would not have been able to attend college. He said his story was similar to many of the students who attend proprietary colleges.

Each lawmaker received a box of fortune cookies containing catchy phrases about TAP such as, “TAP unleashes student achievement.”

“Give [students] a chance,” said Callanan. “They need a chance.”