



June 8, 2008

LETTERS

Who'll Help Students Pay for College?

To the Editor:

Re "Student Loans Start to Bypass 2-Year Colleges":

Our nation's economy is not driven solely by the graduates of prestigious universities, but rather is dependent on many sectors of higher education. By making it more difficult for students at two-year colleges to get loans, banks are turning their backs on the lower-income students who make up the majority of the student body at these community colleges and an ever-expanding portion of our overall population.

Proprietary colleges prepare students to enter the work force. We are proud that in 2005-6, nearly 10,000 students graduated with associate degrees from the 30 accredited colleges that are members of the Association of Proprietary Colleges. More than 90 percent of them were placed in jobs in New York.

These graduates are now contributing to the economy and paying taxes. For New York, and for the rest of the country, these are two benefits of a two-year college education. If banks want to ensure their own future, they must invest in the people who will help secure it.

Stephen J. Jerome

Bronx, June 3, 2008

The writer, president of Monroe College, is chairman of the Association of Proprietary Colleges.