

Association of Proprietary Colleges: Tapping New York's Potential for Opportunity and Growth

The Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC) represents New York's degree-granting proprietary colleges and is one of New York's four sectors of higher education. Others include SUNY, CUNY and the independent colleges.

APC has 27 member colleges on 41 campuses throughout the state serving approximately 50,000 students pursuing associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. **A majority of these students are from New York and more than 90 percent of APC students stay in New York after graduation.**

Committed to New York's Students

The role of an APC college begins with one sustaining mission: to provide students who need or desire a focused entry point into the workforce a clear path to that goal. In a demand driven economy, where employers crave job applicants trained for specific careers, students choose colleges that can meet those needs. APC colleges educate students for the jobs that are available now and well into the future.

In order to fulfill this mission, APC colleges are committed to providing students a quality education with the supports necessary to assist them as they navigate their way towards obtaining a degree and finding a career.

With small class sizes, flexible programs and career-focused instruction, APC colleges connect students to meaningful jobs in a variety of traditional and emerging professions, including business administration, computer programming, health care and visual arts.

APC Colleges are committed to ensuring access and making college affordable. During the 2008 and 2009 academic years, APC Colleges provided more than \$100 million in grants and scholarships.

What Makes APC Colleges Unique?

- ✓ Teachers are experienced in their fields; they bring real-world experience to the classroom;
- ✓ Small class sizes provide students with the attention they need to be successful;
- ✓ Accelerated study programs: earn an associate degree in 18 months, a bachelor's in three years; and
- ✓ Internship programs that offer valuable experiences that lead to full-time employment.

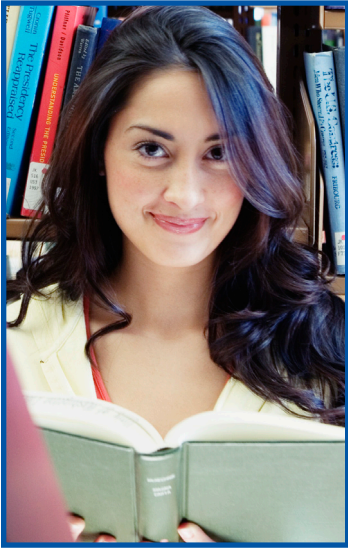
A recent APC survey of 15 colleges revealed that they employ more than

6,300 people,
with an annual payroll topping
\$230 million.

Our colleges have spent more than
\$135 million
in capital investments in recent years
and paid more than
\$32 million
in state and federal taxes in 2009.



TAP = Opportunity and Growth



TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) was created in 1974 to make college accessible for all New York state residents wishing to attend New York state colleges and universities, regardless of their economic circumstances. And in today's rapidly-changing global economy a college education is becoming increasingly important. Jobs that require complex, high-tech skills – jobs that pay well

– require a college degree, and opportunities for those without this education are diminishing.

Moreover, the recent economic decline has had a profound impact on New York State as well as its students. Today many students enrolling in college have lost their jobs and are seeking to gain new skills – this is true across all programs – associate, baccalaureate and master's. Students entering college directly from high school realize a diploma is no longer enough and that they need a degree that will provide them with basic knowledge but also critical thinking and everyday skills.

For thousands of New York students, TAP has been a gateway to receiving these skills. Reducing TAP means college will not be an option for many of New York's potential students, primarily those who have the academic qualifications and the desire to attend college, but lack the financial means.



TAP Provides Funding for Students Who Need it the Most

APC Colleges are proud that Legislature has maintained the state's commitment to TAP. The program is an investment that pays huge dividends and truly makes it possible for thousands of New Yorkers to afford college. Once students graduate, they are able to secure good jobs here in New York and become productive members of their communities. Specific budget recommendations for SFY '11-'12 are:

Standards of Academic Progress –

APC Colleges are pleased to see revised standards of academic progress and urge the legislature to adopt these standards. This year's proposal will ensure students are working toward degree completion, while offering flexibility with regard to the number of credits accumulated during the first two years of college.

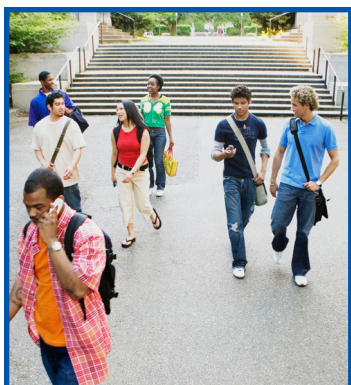
Increase Maximum TAP Award for 2-Year Students –

APC Colleges asks the Legislature to reject the executive proposal that decreases the maximum TAP award for students enrolled in 2-year degree programs from \$5,000 to \$4,000. All New York students deserve equal treatment and the chance to go to the college of their choice. This proposal negatively impacts the exact student this program is intended to serve. Reject this proposal and continue to invest in the students who need assistance the most.



Association of Proprietary Colleges: Tapping New York's Potential for Opportunity and Growth

Improving Access to Higher Education



One of the challenges we face during this time of fiscal uncertainty is how to maintain access to higher education. By increasing access for more New Yorkers, we will be able to provide a well-educated workforce capable of rebuilding New York's economy.

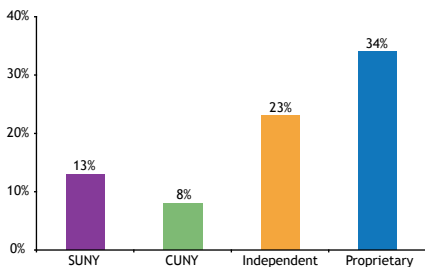
Businesses will be more willing to bring jobs back to the state –and keep them here –when New York can deliver a high-quality supply of well-educated professionals.

Helping Minority Students Obtain a College Education

Minority students are earning associate degrees from the proprietary sector at a higher rate than minority students in other sectors. In 2009, 34 percent of students graduating from 2-year degree programs at proprietary colleges were black and Hispanic, as opposed to just 13 percent at SUNY, 23 percent at independent colleges and 8 percent at CUNY.

The majority of these graduates found good paying jobs right here in New York.

2009 Combined Graduation Rate by Sector, Black and Hispanic Students, Associate

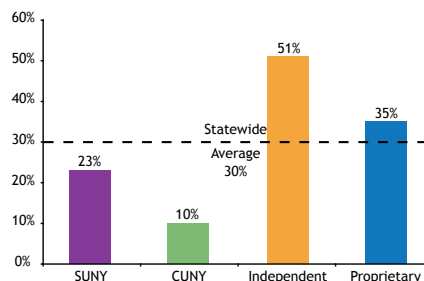


Source: New York State Education Department

A Gateway for Opportunity

APC Colleges graduate students who enter higher education by enrolling in associate degree programs at a higher percentage than the statewide average, SUNY and CUNY.

2009 Graduation Rate by Sector, Full Time and Earning a Degree at Institution First Entered Within Three Years, Associate



Source: New York State Education Department

Providing access to the minority community is an area in which APC Colleges excel. Of the 50,000 students currently enrolled at APC Colleges, 57 percent are black or Hispanic – compared to 50 percent for CUNY and 18 percent for both SUNY and independent colleges.



Creating Opportunities for All Students

Students attending APC Colleges are more diverse and financially needy than students from other sectors, and many secure funds from both New York's Tuition Assistance Program and the federal Pell grant program in order to attend college.

APC Colleges enroll more low income students than SUNY, CUNY and the Independent sectors in New York as evidenced by the percentage of students receiving TAP and Pell – both need based grant programs.

64%
of all undergraduate students enrolled in a 2-year proprietary college receive TAP funding.

58%
of all undergraduate students enrolled in a 4-year proprietary college receive TAP funding.

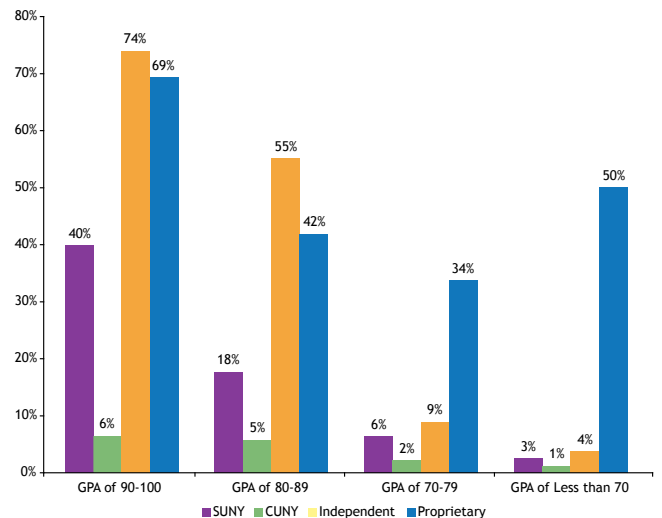
New York's economy becomes more invigorated as more traditionally low-income residents earn college degrees and join the workforce with salaries that are higher than those of non-college graduates.

Preparing Educationally Disadvantaged New Yorkers for Success

APC Colleges recognize that one of New York's greatest challenges will be to ensure a trained workforce that's ready and able to meet the needs of new industries as the state's economy continues to change. According to recent data from the State Education Department, nearly 60 percent of high school graduates in 2009 were not college and career ready. APC believes we cannot afford to let this segment slip through the cracks and has developed a model to help educationally disadvantaged students, thrive and graduate. This includes remedial programs, which help students acclimate to the pace and demands of college study; small class sizes, which provides a more attentive learning environment; and internship programs, which energize students by putting them in real work settings.

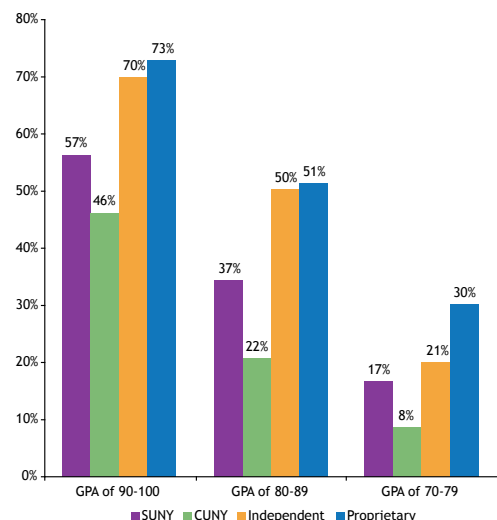
As you can see from the charts below, APC Colleges have a gift for working with the educationally disadvantaged and helping them obtain a degree and find a good job.

Graduation Rates for Associate Degree Programs Within Two Years, Grouped by High School GPA, 2009



Source: New York State Education Department

Graduation Rates for Associate Degree Programs Within Four Years, Grouped by High School GPA, 2009



Source: New York State Education Department

