



# NYPIRG's Higher Education Campaign

## *Opportunity Programs*

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Opportunity programs open the door to higher education for students who have the potential to master college-level work but face barriers to success associated with economic insecurity, membership in underrepresented groups and disparities in our education system. They vary slightly in their approach, but New York's opportunity programs typically provide students with a support structure that includes some mix of expanded orientation programs, tutoring, mentorship, counseling and financial assistance.

### **Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)**

At most SUNY schools, EOP provides academic, career, and personal counseling; tutoring and supplemental instruction; as well as financial assistance for non-tuition related expenses (e.g. books, supplies, etc.)<sup>1</sup>

### **Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK)/ College Discovery**

At CUNY, SEEK works with senior college students and College Discovery works with community college students. The two programs provide a range of support services including supplemental instruction, counseling, and enhanced financial aid to enable students to bridge the gap between remedial programs and the regular college curriculum.

### **Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)**

At 57 of New York State's independent colleges, HEOP provides special testing, counseling, English as a Second Language training, tutoring, remedial courses, and financial assistance for academically motivated students who are under-prepared for college because of economic and educational disadvantage.<sup>2</sup>

### **(Collegiate) Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) /C-STEP**

STEP provides counseling, literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL) training, life skills, and tutoring to minority and economically disadvantaged secondary school students throughout the state, in order to help students acquire skills needed to pursue collegiate study in the math, science, and technology fields. C-STEP helps similarly disadvantaged undergraduate and graduate students with the completion of pre-professional programs of study leading to licensure and careers in scientific, technical and health related fields. In addition to the services provided by STEP, C-STEP also offers transportation and tuition assistance.

### **Liberty Partnership Program (LPP)**

A collaboration of colleges, high schools and community stakeholders, the Liberty Partnership Program provides comprehensive services for in-school at-risk youth who are in danger of dropping-out of high school. The program provides counseling, daycare and transportation services, literacy and ESL instruction, job search and employability skills instruction, and life skills instruction, as well as mentoring and tutoring. LPP's services are provided through a variety of settings, and are delivered via a mix of in-school, after-school, weekend and summer programming.

## How many students benefit from opportunity programs?

More than 31,000 college students are enrolled in opportunity programs around the state. Thousands more high school students take part in programs with similar or connected purposes.

### Opportunity Program Enrollment<sup>3</sup>

	Institution Type	Enrollment
<b>EOP</b>	SUNY (2 year & 4 year)	9,869
<b>HEOP</b>	Private	5,000+
<b>SEEK</b>	CUNY (4 year)	8,565
<b>College Discovery</b>	CUNY (2 year)	2,191
<b>STEP</b>	High School	8,772
<b>CSTEP</b>	SUNY, CUNY & Private (2 year & 4 year)	5,500+

1. All of SUNY's 4-year colleges, Downstate Medical Center and Upstate Medical University, and 14 community colleges offer EOP. The following SUNY community colleges do not offer EOP: Adirondack, Cayuga County, Clinton, Columbia-Greene, Corning, Herkimer County, Jamestown, Jefferson, Mohawk Valley, Nassau, Niagara County, Orange County, Rockland, Sullivan County and Tompkins-Cortland Community Colleges.

2. New York State Education Department, HEOP Works, April 2009 (<http://tinyurl.com/mrkjxb>)

3. EOP: SUNY, Educational Opportunity Program Information Summary 2009 (<http://tiny.cc/pqnTx>), SEEK/CD: CUNY Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, Total SEEK/CD Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Gender and College Fall 2008 (<http://tiny.cc/gIuRH>, Estimates for STEP/C-STEP, HEOP: NYS Department of Education Website (<http://tiny.cc/snOsX>, <http://tiny.cc/dDfld> and <http://tiny.cc/gTRTy>). Liberty Partnership Program enrollment is not available.