2018 Joint Budget Hearing 1/23/18 Higher Education

Presentation: NYS Postsecondary Success Network (On Point for College, Goddard Riverside Options Program, New Settlement Apartments)

How Network was formed:

- Founder of On Point for College started as a volunteer for 8 years helping students in a homeless shelter to enroll in college. Today On Point has evolved to 2 offices, 24 employees and over 7,000 enrolled in college
 - In 2012, On Point for College received funding from HESC (College Access Challenge Grant federal grant) that enabled On Point to double the staff in Syracuse, open site in Utica, and provide funding and guidance for a retention program at Goddard Riverside Options Program in Manhattan and New Settlement Apts. in the Bronx. This is the origin of the NYS Postsecondary Success Network.

How The Network is different: Participants are 17-29 years old. Low-income and first generation. Services are provided in 24 community centers (Boys and Girls, Settlement houses, homeless shelters, libraries, municipal housing, refugee schools, GED sites, etc.). Most of participants not in high school when join program. In one program 30% have no parent in their life. 70% return to college for 2nd year.

Program: ACCESS -> SUCCESS -> Career Services

- Unique elements (beyond FAFSA and college applications): <u>Non-academic supports</u>: meet students in their neighborhood, college supplies, transportation in NYS through college, on-campus visits in NYS during the first 3 weeks of each semester (Got books? Got food? Meet the campus angel.) Continue on-campus visits monthly for 2-yr colleges, weekly for community colleges in Syracuse, Utica, Herkimer, and NY City, re-enrollment, transfer services, job placement, certificate programs, free summer housing at LeMoyne college for homeless youth from any Network location. Vulnerable youth get help with eye glasses, winter coats, dentistry.
- For on-campus support, On Point supports all Network students in Upstate New York, while Options and New Settlement Apartments support all Network students in the New York City/Long Island area.

Case Statement: The Federal College Access Challenge Grant (administered by HESC) ended in August 2016. Because of the support and funding through NYS in 2012-2016, the NYS Postsecondary Network increased the numbers of students enrolled in college. The decrease in funding has resulted in a decrease in staff and funding for basic needs. We are able to support fewer students on campus and provide fewer crucial resources that keep them from dropping out. We request funding to support our students to the finish line.

Given the funding, the Network can build a strong foundation and position itself to expend next year to support other students, especially the most vulnerable Excelsior students.

- Good stewards of HESC Funding:
- Securing HESC funding has enabled On Point to leverage over 1.0M from national foundations (USA Funds, Kresge, TG, Lumina)
- First In The World On Point was instrumental in collaboration with SUNY Oswego (lead), 3 community colleges to bring 2.8M to this region. (On Point is the only CBO funded in this FITW grant in the country.)
- Pell funding to NY State for 4,000 currently enrolled college students equals \$23,680,000 in one year.
- Over 10,000 students have been enrolled in college by the network over time.
- 3,100 have graduated from College.
- 4,000 are currently in college.