



*Association for Program Administrators of CSTEP and STEP, Inc.*

---

Testimony to the New York State Assembly Ways and Means and  
Senate Finance Committees-Higher Education Hearing

Submitted By: Michael A. Molina, President

Monday February 12, 2019  
Legislative Office Building  
Hearing Room C  
Albany, New York

On behalf of CSTEP and STEP programs and students throughout New York State, I thank you for convening this important hearing and for the opportunity to address you this afternoon.

Today, I ask for your continued support of the 20,010 CSTEP and STEP students that are served in 114 programs in SUNY, CUNY and independent 4-year and 2-year colleges and universities. The Proposed Executive Budget calls for a 17% reduction in CSTEP and STEP funding for 2020. This is short-sighted and will devastate these highly effective and efficient programs.

CSTEP and STEP programs continue to position New York State as a nationally recognized leader in preparing and directing students to careers in STEM, health and licensed fields. We have a demonstrated record of success and are among the most effective and efficient educational programs in New York State. CSTEP and STEP are a past recipient of the National Science Foundation: Presidential Medal of Excellence for Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Examples of program success during 2017-2018 include:

**STEP**

- 11,957 STEP Students enrolled in 59 programs
- 1,878 STEP Students graduated from high school
- Students participated in 1,210 Research activities totaling 65,141 hours
- Students participated in 459 Internship activities totaling 39,721 hours

**CSTEP**

- 8,053 Students enrolled in 55 programs
- 1,797 Students graduated. (74% Bachelor's Degree; 21% Associate Degree)
- Students participated in 1,126 Research activities totaling 212,868 hours
- Students participated in 894 internship activities totaling 216,985 hours

70% of CSTEP and STEP graduates pursue professional degree programs of study in STEM, health and licensed fields.



*Association for Program Administrators of CSTEP and STEP, Inc.*

---

More funding is needed to continue the expansion of the programs and to provide opportunities for more students to participate. CSTEP and STEP have been level-funded in the past two fiscal years. Along with current unmet need, and the passage of the Jose Peralta Dream Act we anticipate there will be added demand for STEP, CSTEP and all of the opportunity programs. Accordingly, we request the following:

- The restoration of the 17% cut in funding proposed in the Executive Budget. Current funding is \$11.9 million for CSTEP and \$15.8 million for STEP for a total of \$27.7 million. **The proposed cut in funding would total \$4.79 million and reduce total funding to \$22.99 million.**
- An additional 20% in funding to continue the path to doubling the funding of CSTEP and STEP, and all of the opportunity programs begun in 2015. **The 20% increase in funding will provide an additional \$5.4 million to CSTEP and STEP.** With the passage of the Dream Act, an additional 4,500 high school seniors throughout New York will now be eligible to apply for TAP and all of the opportunity programs including CSTEP.

CSTEP and STEP continue to be among New York State's most successful education programs. Each year, the programs meet their mission to increase minority and disadvantaged student representation in STEM, health and licensed fields in New York State. CSTEP programs provide academic enrichment and support, mentoring, academic and career counseling, internships and research opportunities, standardized test preparation and career activities and services. STEP programs provide academic enrichment in science, mathematics content areas. They also provide academic, career and financial aid counseling, standardized test preparation, college admissions counseling and research training and internships. Among our graduates are Rhodes and Fulbright Scholars.

As New York State continues to build its STEM centered industrial base, increased CSTEP/STEP funding will help to produce the STEM professionals that are vital to the economic vitality of our state. Your consideration and support of our requests will help us to enroll more students, and provide them with the resources and services they need in their journey to success.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Molina  
President, APACS, Inc.  
441 East Fordham Road  
Collins Hall 303  
Bronx, New York 10458