

APACS
Association of Program
Administrators for
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

Thursday February 4th, 2021

Legislative Office Building

Albany, New York

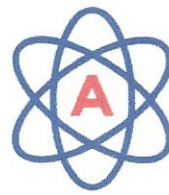
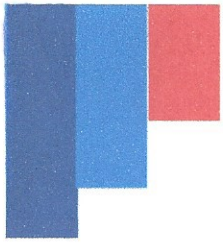
On behalf of CSTEP and STEP programs and students throughout New York State, I thank you for convening this important hearing and for the opportunity to address you this afternoon.

Today, I ask for your continued support of the 19,969 CSTEP and STEP students that are served in 100 programs in SUNY, CUNY and independent 4-year and 2-year colleges and universities. The Proposed Executive Budget calls for level-funding of CSTEP and STEP for 2022. We request a 20% increase in funding, particularly if federal aid becomes available. Covid 19 has greatly increased demand for STEP and CSTEP services. Our STEP and CSTEP community of programs have played an important role in bridging gaps in instruction, academic support, counseling and technology for our students and their families. We need more funding to serve additional students. Our programs are highly effective and efficient programs, but they are at capacity in their ability to serve more students.

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 2019-2020 include:

STEP

- 12,262 STEP Students enrolled in 53 programs
- 2,030 STEP Students graduated from high school
- 967 Students participated in Research activities totaling 58,434 hours
- 317 Students participated in Internship activities totaling 31,222 hours



CSTEP

- 7,707 Students enrolled in 47 programs
- 1,719 Students graduated. (78% Bachelor's Degree; 22% Associate Degree)
- 1,591 Students participated in Research activities totaling 153,241 hours
- 669 Students participated in Internship activities totaling 241,479 hours

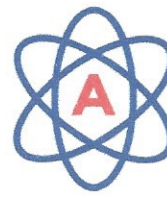
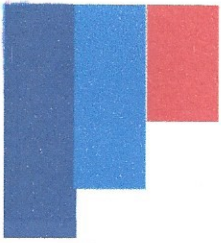
70% of CSTEP and STEP graduates pursue professional degree programs of study in STEM, health and licensed fields.

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 five fiscal years. Along with current unmet need created by Covid 19, there is added demand for STEP, CSTEP and all of the opportunity programs. Accordingly, we request the following:

- 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 \$5.5 million to CSTEP and STEP.** With the passage of the Dream Act two years ago, additional high school seniors throughout New York are now 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. This past year, our programs pivoted to a virtual platform, and continued to provide our 19,969 students with the support they need to continue their journey to academic and career success. STEP and CSTEP programs continued to 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 professional success.



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Respectfully submitted,

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