

**Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Higher Education**  
**On Point for College, Inc.**  
**February 25, 2026**

Testimony by On Point for College Inc., Executive Director Samuel Rowser

On Behalf of our students, thank you for the opportunity to testify about transforming our student's lives and our communities by investing \$500,000 in New York's future work force. Since On Point for College was founded in 1999, we have helped more than 4,500 students graduate from college. Lower-income, first generation, single parents, urban, rural, domestic violence survivors, youth, homeless, refugees, immigrants, former foster care youth. We help to level the playing field for our students. Over the course of their working lifetimes, our On Point graduates will earn over \$11 billion dollars to spend in their communities.

On Point for College serves students from Central New York and the Mohawk Valley forwarding their dreams while teaming up with our NYC partners, colleges, businesses and our non-profit partners. On Point provides College Access, College Success, and Career Services to help over 3,000 young adults, ages 17 to 29 from application to graduation and careers. Without the wraparound services provided by On Point many students would never start college or if they did would stop out with debt.

Our lower-income, first-generation students persist at (71.7%) 10 to 25% higher rate than students at community colleges who do not have On Point's wraparound services, generating millions for our colleges. On Point is there for our students whether college, certificates, skilled trades and other credentials to meet workforce needs and position themselves for great careers. The National College Attainment Network estimates that each college graduate's lifetime impact in New York State is a \$2.7 million increase in GDP.

On Point is unique in the nation for the holistic approach, for example we even help students we take students on 70 college tours, provide supplies, transportation for breaks, child care, summer housing even dentists who provide pro bono dental work. On Point's advisors keep in touch with students in person, over Zoom, by phone, text, e-mail and visit students on campus providing advice and comprehensive assistance. These students are contributing over 23 Million dollars in tuition, fees and room and board to community colleges and the SUNY and CUNY systems. Plus, 5.8 million dollars more from over 600 students who would have stopped out without On Point.

In the last three years On Point has provided enhanced or direct services to many school districts providing critically needed college access and career services with other districts now seeking these services as well.

On Point's work includes career services to help students make industry-informed decisions about their education journeys like internships and employer tours. For example, in the summers of 2023 and 2024, On Point for College sent the first groups of young people from Central New York to visit the Micron semiconductor manufacturing facility in Manassas, Virginia.

Providing \$500,000 in state funding for On Point's programs will have an impact on thousands of first-generation students each year—helping people consider going to college or into skilled trades who might otherwise think that their goals were beyond reach. This will also empower On Point

for College to advance the educational dreams of 500 more low-income students. On Point will provide wrap-around services to support students on every step of their journeys toward their educational and career dreams. On Point is morally obligated to make sure these additional students starting college graduate with degrees rather than be left with no degree, debt and deeper in poverty

Investments in these young people will immediately support colleges across the state. Our graduates will bring their degrees and our skilled trade professionals with will bring their skills to build the talented work force New York needs.

Thank you.

Samuel Rowser  
Executive Director