



Next Generation Job Linkage Program

Background:

New York State enacted legislation in 1948 to establish our community colleges under the new State University of New York system. As first envisioned, community colleges were created in direct coordination to existing industry needs for technical workers with education beyond a high school degree. The language used to describe this system at the time still resonates today: "All of this movement is a natural outcome in a society whose economy stems from high technological development."

Sixty-five years later, SUNY's 30 community colleges enroll more than 242,000 students—one-third of whom are enrolled in workforce-focused degrees and credentials—and CUNY's seven community colleges enroll nearly 100,000 students, with more than half in workforce programs.

It is time once again to modernize and link our education system so that students are trained in areas and on systems that are directly utilized by real actors in the economy of today.

Proposal:

As part of the 2013-14 budget, Governor Cuomo enacted the NY next generation job linkage program which is designed to link college workforce and vocational programs more closely with the needs of relevant businesses. Going forward, any credit based certificate or vocational degree program will partner with employers that have current workforce needs. Each program's advisory committee must include a majority of relevant local employers who will influence a programs curriculum, recruitment, placement, and evaluation criteria.

Also an additional \$5 million (\$2 million at CUNY, \$3 million at SUNY) above normal base aid allocations is included as incentive funding for community colleges. Community colleges will be eligible for funding based on their ability to graduate students directly into jobs with increased earnings, measures of student completion, and the number of students engaged in work related experiences as part of their curriculum.