

College Opportunity Programs in New York State



History of the Opportunity Programs

- 1964: College Discovery established at the City University community colleges to provide counseling, tutoring and supplemental financial assistance to disadvantaged students.
 - 1966: SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) begins at CUNY four-year colleges. Its early champions included Basil Paterson, David Dinkins, Percy Sutton, Congressman Charles Rangel.
 - 1967: Assemblyman Arthur O. Eve expands the opportunity program concept; Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) established at SUNY.
 - 1969: Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) starts at private colleges and universities. Today, EOP and HEOP are both named in honor of former Assemblyman Eve. Additional programs such as STEP/C-STEP and the Liberty Partnerships Program followed.

Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) Current funding level: \$20.8 million

- The Executive Budget for SFY 2010-11 proposes funding levels for HEOP, C-STEP and Liberty Partnerships equal to current year funding. These programs, strongly supported by the Legislature across decades, are having a measurable effect on the number of minority and low-income students who are prepared for and complete their college degrees. We thank the Executive and Legislature for supporting opportunity programs and hope for more funding in the future to meet growing demand.
- Each year, HEOP brings the promise of a college education to about 3,700 students; the program has 30,000 alumni.
- HEOP students, who do not meet the traditional criteria when they are admitted, typically earn their degrees at rates that equal or exceed other students. With mentoring and support, 55% of HEOP students graduate within five years of enrolling.
- Three in four HEOP students are Black or Hispanic; 80% of HEOP freshmen come from families earning less than \$21,150 annually.
- Though program guidelines require a \$0.15 match for every state dollar, participating campuses match each state dollar with \$4, on average.

