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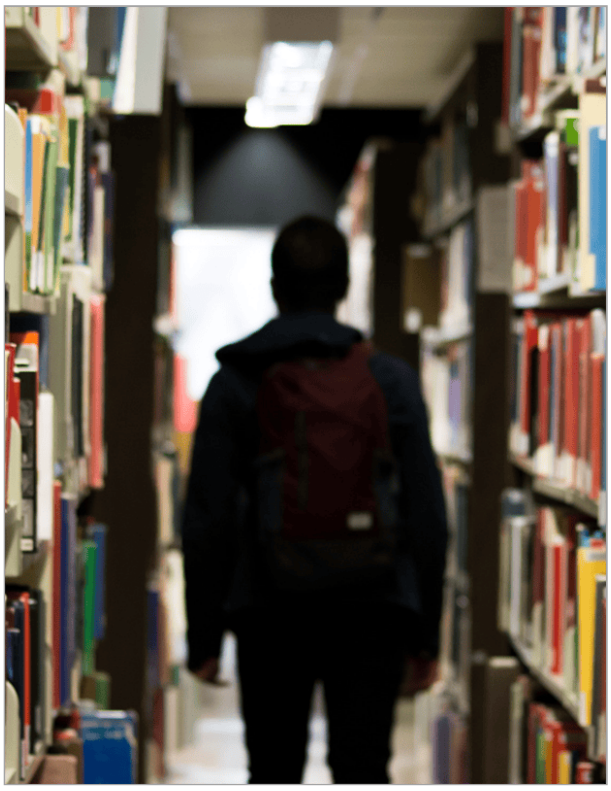

Commentary/Op-Ed - December 2017

Op-Ed: Want to Expand Economic Opportunity, Governor Cuomo? Help NYC Tackle Student Success

Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature took steps to make college more affordable by launching the Excelsior Scholarship program. Now it's time to tackle another critical challenge: making sure more students actually graduate with a degree.

by Tom Hilliard

This year, Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature took steps to make college more affordable by launching the Excelsior Scholarship program, which covers tuition at public colleges for New Yorkers with family incomes up to $125,000. Now it's time to tackle another critical challenge: making sure more students actually graduate with a degree.

In this *Albany Times-Union* op-ed, Tom Hilliard, CUF's senior fellow for economic opportunity, argues that come January, the governor and legislators should support new efforts at CUNY and SUNY specifically geared toward improving student success. College leaders and faculty are already implementing promising models to support student achievement and reduce dropout. But they need state support to take the best strategies to scale.

Read the op-ed here.

This op-ed is a continuation of the Center for an Urban Future's extensive research on higher education in New York, including the groundbreaking study *Degrees of Difficulty: Boosting College Success in New York City*.

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Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs,

reduce inequality, and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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