



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,

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