

**timesunion.com**

Commentary/Op-Ed - December 2014

## Tap Into Part-Time Students

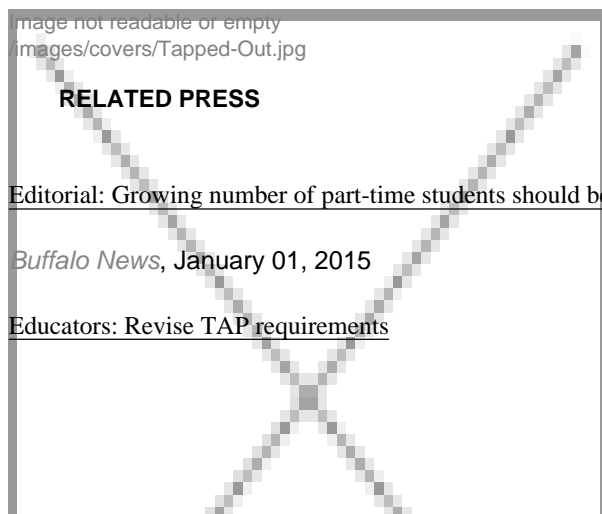
In this op-ed in Albany's *Times Union*, the Center's Christian González-Rivera and Jonathan Bowles argue that at a time when a postsecondary credential is more critical than ever for economic success, public officials should modify the state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to allow more grants to go to part-time students. Doing so would benefit tens of thousands of poor and working poor students, who are now effectively barred from financial aid because of their part-time enrollment.

by Christian González-Rivera and Jonathan Bowles

In this op-ed in Albany's *Times Union*, the Center's Christian González-Rivera and Jonathan Bowles argue that at a time when a postsecondary credential is more critical than ever for economic success, public officials should modify the state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to allow more grants to go to part-time students. Doing so would benefit tens of thousands of poor and working poor students, who are now effectively barred from financial aid for part-time enrollment. They recommend that state officials start a pilot program that extends and evaluates TAP for part-time students, as well as consider creating a single, centralized state financial aid system that grants awards based on how many credits students can actually take.

Link: [Click here](#) to read the full op-ed.

Gonzalez-Rivera is the author of [Tapped Out](#), a Center for an Urban Future policy brief published in December 2014 which details the need to expand the state's Tuition Assistance Program to support more part-time students:



*Legislative Gazette*, by Roger Hannigan Gilson, December 15, 2014

Popular tuition aid program cuts out many older, part-time college students

*Buffalo News*, by Jay Tokasz, December 15, 2014

- December 2014

## TAP into part-time students

---



CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE

120 Wall Street, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10005

[cuf@nycfuture.org](mailto:cuf@nycfuture.org) © All Rights Reserved.