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NEW YORK COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS COULD WIN BIG UNDER PRESIDENT'S PLAN

NEW YORK HAS 6TH MOST EXPENSIVE AVERAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PUBLIC TUITION IN THE NATION, \$4,851 IN 2014-15

As the national student loan debt exceeds \$1.2 trillion, The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), applauds the President's commitment to making college affordable. NYPIRG urges the state's Congressional delegation to closely examine the President's plan to offer free tuition for 'responsible' community college students. Given how expensive New York's community colleges are, the President's plan could offer real financial advantages to students as well as the state. New York's Congressional delegation should carefully evaluate the President's plan.

The outline of the President's plan states that:

- Students must attend community college at least half-time, maintain a 2.5 GPA, and make steady progress toward completing their program.
- Community colleges will be expected to offer programs that are either 1) academic programs that fully transfer credits to local public four-year colleges and universities, or 2) occupational training programs with high graduation rates and lead to in-demand degrees and certificates.
- Community colleges will also be expected adopt proven programs--such as the City University of New York's (CUNY) successful Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) program--which provides expanded counseling and additional financial support to pay for textbooks and travel.
- Federal funding will cover three-quarters of the average cost of community college. Participating states will be expected to contribute the remaining funds necessary to eliminate the tuition for eligible students.