

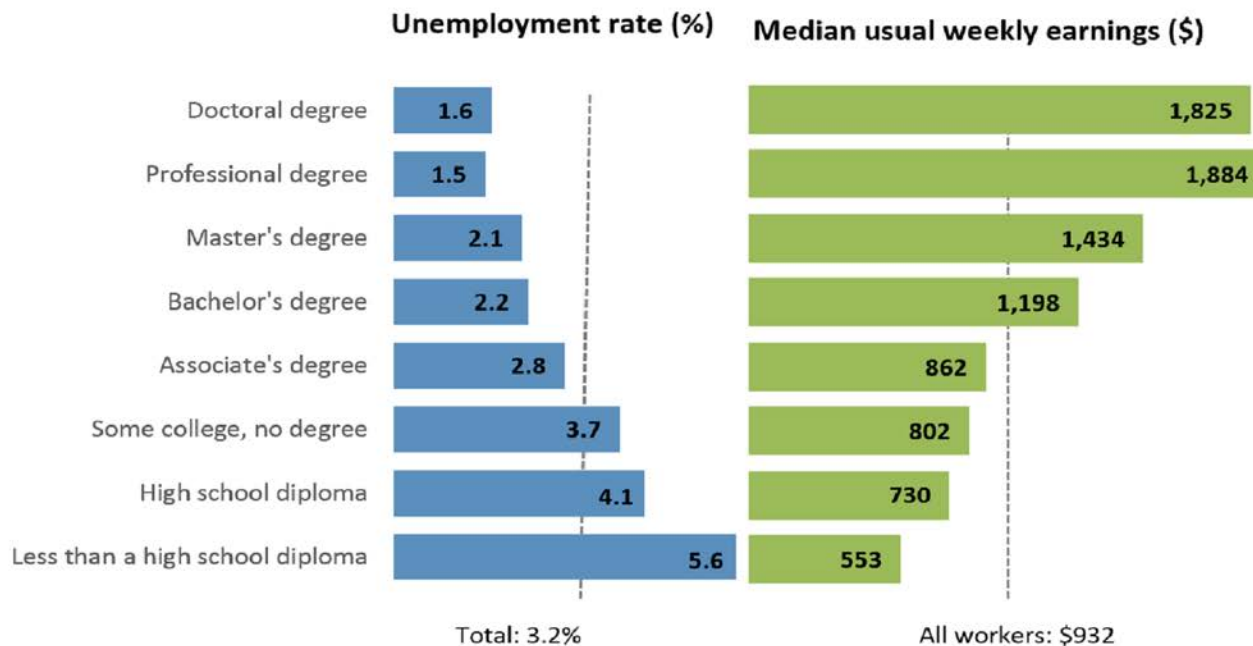


## Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Higher Education

**Shannon Tahoe**, Interim Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York

# Why College Access & Completion Matters – Earnings and Unemployment

**Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2018**



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

# Access and Opportunity Programs

## *2020-21 \$10M Budget Request*

### Expand Access to Higher Education for Underrepresented and Disadvantaged Students

Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)	\$4.5M
Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)	\$1.0M
Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)	\$2.5M
Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP)	\$2.0M

- The state's higher education opportunity programs are available for students attending public and private colleges throughout the state.
- These programs currently serve over 39,000 underrepresented and disadvantaged students.
- These programs are effective at increasing graduation rates and should be expanded.

# Increase Access to Higher Education –

## *Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)*

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- HEOP provides financial assistance, pre-freshman summer programs, remedial coursework, tutoring and counseling to students attending independent colleges. **Students in this program do not meet traditional academic criteria when admitted to college, however, they typically earn degrees at rates that equal or exceed general admission students.** HEOP serves over 4,450 students through 50 programs.



- ❖ SED requests an **additional \$4.5 million**, to support and enhance current programs

# Increase Access to Higher Education – *Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)*

- STEP provides academic enrichment in science and mathematics with the purpose of increasing the number of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged high school students prepared to enter college and improve their participation rate in mathematics, science, technology, health-related fields, and the licensed professions. STEP serves over 12,000 students through 59 programs.
- ❖ SED requests an **additional \$1 million** to serve approximately 500 additional students and promote greater participation in STEM-based research, internships, or exploratory career opportunities at facilities such as Brookhaven National Laboratory and regional STEM-hubs.



# Increase Access to Higher Education – *Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)*

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- CSTEP provides academic enrichment and research experience in STEM content areas to increase the number of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged undergraduate and graduate students who complete programs of study that lead to professional licensure and careers in mathematics, science, technology, and health-related careers. CSTEP currently serves over 8,000 students through 55 programs.



- ❖ SED requests an additional \$2.5 million to serve approximately 1,250 additional students and promote greater participation in STEM-based research, internships, or exploratory career opportunities at facilities such as Brookhaven National Laboratory and regional STEM-hubs.

# Increase Access to Higher Education – *Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP)*

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- LPPs are partnerships between institutions of higher education, schools and community-based organizations that offer comprehensive pre-collegiate/dropout prevention programs to middle and high school students. LPPs provide tutoring, counseling, college and career exploration, crisis intervention and other supportive services to over 15,000 students in 46 programs across New York State.
- LPP has demonstrated value in positively impacting youth at risk of dropping out of school.



- ❖ SED requests an **additional \$2 million** to serve approximately 1,300 additional students and expand its corresponding capacity for essential program components, such as mentoring, college access to NYS Opportunity Programs, summer programs and family/alumni engagement.

# Increase Access to Higher Education – *Enhancing Supports & Services for Individuals with Disabilities*

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- ❖ SED requests **\$15 million in new state funds** to provide much-needed enhanced supports and services to over 75,000 identified individuals with disabilities in New York State degree granting colleges and universities.

Funding would be authorized, for one or more of the following purposes to:

- supplement funding for supports and accommodations of individuals with disabilities;
- support summer college preparation programs to assist individuals with disabilities transitioning to college, and prepare them to navigate campus facilities and systems;
- provide full and part-time faculty and staff with disability training; and
- improve the identification process of individuals with disabilities and enhance data collection capabilities.



# Increase Access to Higher Education – *Funding the Expansion of the Readers Aid Program*

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- ❖ SED requests an **additional \$706,000** to increase Readers Aid Program funding from the current \$294,000 annual level to \$1 million, to enable the program to provide grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 to serve approximately 400 students per year.
  - The Readers Aid Program provides funding to colleges and universities to use on behalf of students who are blind, deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing. Funding is used to help meet the costs of note-takers, readers, and interpreter services.
  - In the 2018-19 academic year, over 200 students from 28 colleges and universities received Readers Aid funding. However, the current annual appropriation for this program is insufficient to meet the needs of the increased number of eligible students and cannot support the increase in annual reimbursement levels.

# Teacher Opportunity Corps II

## 2020-21 \$3M Budget Request

### Increase Access to a Highly Qualified, Diverse Teaching Workforce

- ❖ SED requests **\$3 million in new state funds** to establish a separately appropriated Teacher Opportunity Corps II (TOC II) program to increase the number of certified educators of color. Under this expansion, the number of projects would approximately increase from 16 to 26, with the goal of extending coverage to all regions of NYS.
  - An expanded TOC II program would increase the pipeline of diverse students to increase the participation rate of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged individuals in teaching careers and bolster the retention of highly qualified individuals who value equity and reflect the diversity inside and outside of our classrooms.
  - Competitive grants would be awarded to higher education institutions that partner with community-based organizations and school districts to identify, recruit, and select students who are identified as underrepresented and underserved in the teaching profession.
  - Program elements would include an enhanced 10-month student internship, preparation of teachers to become culturally responsive educators, and possible tuition stipends.

# Teacher & Leader Preparation Programs

## *2020-21 \$2.5M Budget Request*

### Transform Teacher and Leader Preparation Programs & Increase Diversity

- ❖ SED requests **\$2.5 million in new state funds** to establish research-based, innovative, high quality birth to grade 3 teacher preparation programs (\$1.2M each year for four years) and birth to grade 12 leader preparation programs (\$1.2M each year for two years), and for the staff costs to implement these initiatives (\$100,000 each year).
  - Approximately 240 of New York’s historically underrepresented and underserved teachers and leaders would be provided opportunities to equitably access high quality, clinically-rich, competency-based preparation programs leading to long-term careers serving New York State’s diverse students, families, and communities.
  - Benefits of the teacher and leader preparation programs would include:
    - offset tuition costs
    - advanced credit
    - increased qualifications and experience
    - employment search assistance
    - enhanced coursework and field experiences
    - mentoring

# Certification Examination Fee Waiver Vouchers

*2020-21 \$1.2M Budget Request*

## Expand the Provision of Certification Examination Fee Waiver Vouchers

- ❖ To promote teacher diversity and encourage more candidates to join the teaching profession in response to public school teacher shortages, SED requests **\$1.2 million in new state funds** to provide more fee waiver vouchers to assist economically disadvantaged educator candidates in paying for certification exams.

- \$1.2 million would support tripling the number of vouchers currently distributed annually from 3,000 to 9,000 to cover the certification exam fees.



# Bridge to College and Careers Pilot Program

*2020-21 \$3M Budget Request*

Enable Out-of-School Youth and Adults to Prepare for Postsecondary Study and Careers



- ❖ SED requests **\$3 million in new state funds** to establish a pilot program to enable out-of-school youth and adults to obtain critical basic skills and high school equivalency diplomas as well as industry-recognized credentials for employment or a college degree.

- These programs would include:
  - Career exploration and career assessment;
  - Relationships with employers and colleges;
  - Apprenticeships and internships; and
  - Job placement, retention and advancement.

# Licensed Professionals Serve and Protect the Public

## Access to Competent Professional Services

- Licensing is inextricably linked to education.
- The professions are at the core of the state's economy.
- Licensees must be qualified and competent to provide health, design, or business services – professional practice affects all New Yorkers.

There are nearly 1 million licensed professionals registered to practice in New York.

## Public Protection Through Professional Oversight and Discipline

The annual responsibilities of the Office of the Professions include:

- Hundreds of thousands of practice interpretations and clarifications.
- Investigation and prosecutions across the state.
- Implementation of Enforcement Actions.

### 2019 Disciplinary Actions:

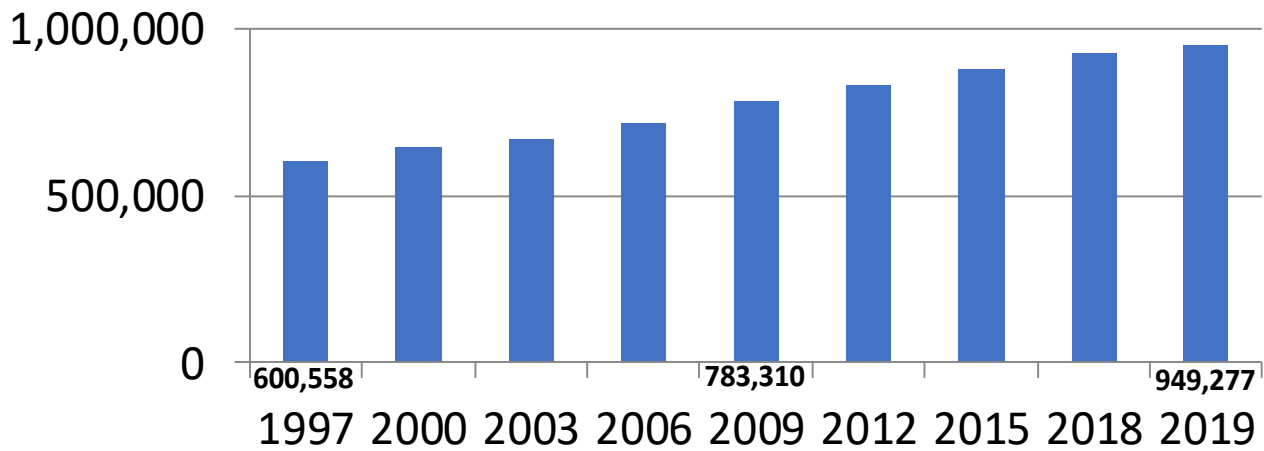
- 649 Regents Actions
- 11 Cease and Desist Orders
- \$473,250 in Regents Fines
- 475 Suspensions/Revocations
- 257 Corrective Action Required Letters
- 36 Administrative Warnings
- 17 Moral Character Final Actions
- 322 Violations Committee Resolutions
- 5 Restoration Applications Considered

<b>Illegal Practice Cases Opened:</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>2019 Compliance Agreements:</b>	<b>540</b>
<b>2019 Cease and Desist Letters:</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Pending Criminal Cases:</b>	<b>94</b>

# 2019 Office of the Professions Data

<b>Operational Responsibility</b>	<b>2019</b>
New licenses issued	57,500
Registrations processed	340,382
Pharmacies, manufacturers, re-packers, wholesalers and outsourcing facilities registered	8,751
Pharmacy inspections conducted	1,215
Disciplinary investigations completed	6,529
Professional education programs completed	466
Individual reviews of education from non-registered programs	18,982
New filings for professional corporations	7,765
Candidates taking OP-developed licensing exams	2,364
Email/telephone inquiries answered	Over 1,000,000

# Growing Numbers of Licensed & Registered Professionals





# OP Modernization Project:

## *Enhanced Services for Licensed Professionals*

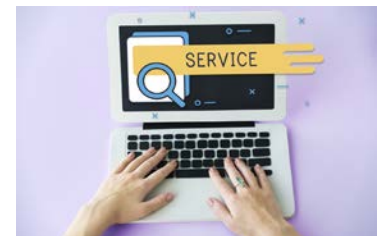
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- As demand for licensing has grown, improvements have been made to the licensure process.
- In 2019, the Office of the Professions website received **nearly 10 million** individual visits, leading to **more than 36 million** page views. We continue to update all Department web pages to increase accessibility and readability for customers.
- Our most popular feature is the online verification of licenses, which received nearly **22 million** visits in 2019.
- The hashtag #ProfessionProfile and #PathsToTheProfessions are used in social media by the Department to inform the public and licensees about professions and public protection.
- Online registration renewal rates are **over 90 percent**.



# OP Modernization: *Enhanced Services for Licensed Professionals*

- A project plan has been developed to replace our antiquated computer system with a robust custom-built electronic licensing system, which will include enhancements to the customer experience and improvements to back-office processes, over the next 5 years.
- Initial online applications for nearly 50 professions have been rolled out since late 2016, with the remaining professions expected to be available by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Applicants are now able to submit documents and pay electronically.
- A more robust call center was implemented in July 2019.
- An enhanced “self-service” FAQ database and an updated, fully accessible website are being designed which will enable customers to find information quickly and easily.
- A new customer ticketing system is under development which will streamline the routing of inquiries.
- ❖ SED is requesting, at no cost to the state, a \$25.39 M increase in capital project spending authority to utilize funds already collected through licensing fees to continue this important work. This is included in the Executive Budget proposal.



# Implementation of Critical New Laws

## *The Professions*

### New laws impacting the Professions were enacted in 2019, including:

- ❖ **Chapter 7 (Glick/Hoylman):** Designates engaging in sexual orientation change efforts by mental health care professionals upon patients under 18 years of age.
- ❖ **Chapter 227 (Gottfried/Rivera):** Provides for restricted clinical laboratory licenses for individuals employed in a department of health authorized toxicology laboratory, operating under the direction of a clinical laboratory director.
- ❖ **Chapter 322 (Hyndman/Stavisky):** Relates to the requirements for a license as a professional land surveyor.
- ❖ **Chapter 379 (Rosenthal/Comrie):** Requires pharmacies to make reasonable attempts to notify patients within seven days by phone or mail of class I drug recalls where such patients are currently taking such recalled drugs.
- ❖ **Chapter 390 (Hyndman/Parker):** Relates to changing name from certified to registered dental assisting; increases the age for registered dental assisting from 17 to 18 years of age.
- ❖ **Chapter 401 (Epstein/Stavisky):** Relates to a restricted dental faculty license, makes such provisions permanent.

# Implementation of Critical New Laws

## *The Professions*

### New laws impacting the Professions were enacted in 2019, including:

- ❖ **Chapter 414 (Romeo/Stavisky):** Relates to the practice of registered pharmacy technicians.
- ❖ **Chapter 426 (Perry/Comrie):** Requires a health care provider or facility which has determined to cease to do business or which is transferring its ownership, at least 30 days prior to such action to provide a copy of its plan for transfer of patient records to another provider, facility or practitioner.
- ❖ **Chapter 517 (McDonald/Stavisky):** Relates to the instilling of mydriatic or cycloplegic eye drops by persons qualified and supervised by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist.
- ❖ **Chapter 660 (Paulin/Ramos):** Requires informed consent for procedures done in the course of education or training.
- ❖ **Chapter 749 (Braunstein/Comrie):** Authorizes in the city of New York, for certain public work undertaken pursuant to project labor agreements, use of the alternative delivery method known as design-build contracts.

# Enhanced Discipline Authority of the Licensed Professions- *Regents Legislative Priority*

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- ❖ SED supports legislation that would enhance SED's disciplinary authority over all licensed professions it oversees by:
  - Authorizing the Commissioner or his/her designee, after an investigation and a recommendation by a professional conduct officer, to order a temporary suspension of practice privileges of a licensee or registered entity when there is an imminent danger to the health and/or safety of the public;
  - Requiring all licensed professionals to report to SED moral character issues upon application for licensure; and
  - Requiring, at minimum, that all licensed professionals report to SED any record of a conviction of a crime in a timely manner.

## Current Legislation:

- A.1184 (Glick)/ S.6240 (Stavisky)- Relates to mandatory reporting of certain convictions, professional misconduct and/or adverse employment actions.



# Thank You.

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