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To: Chief Executive Officers/Presidents of Independent and Proprietary Institutions of Higher Education in New York State

From: Joseph P. Frey 

Subject: Announcement of Funding Opportunity for the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)

On Tuesday, June 30, 2009, the State Education Department posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at: http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/COLLEGIATE/HEOP/introduction_to_heop.htm.

The primary objective of HEOP is to help provide a broad range of services to New York State residents who, because of academic and economic circumstances, would otherwise be unable to attend a postsecondary educational institution.

The State Budget has allocated \$25,237,000 for HEOP in 2009-2010. HEOP awards are subject to the availability of funds. The program is operated on a fixed, five-year funding cycle. A minimum 15 percent match of the HEOP grant is required from the institution's own resources.

Independent institutions of higher education incorporated by the Legislature or chartered by the Board of Regents and offering two or four year degree programs registered with and approved by the Board of Regents may submit proposals for this program support. Programs must serve matriculated students who are working toward a degree. Students shall be selected without regard to age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, gender, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or sexual orientation.

As indicated in the RFP, the beginning date for HEOP contract activities was July 1, 2009. Actual contract award determinations will not be made until after summer pre-freshman activities have concluded. **Summer pre-freshman activities may be for any duration of time and may occur any time prior to the beginning of an institution's fall semester.** Only those postsecondary institutions that are selected for a contract award can be reimbursed for program expenses incurred during the summer pre-freshman program component. Postsecondary institutions that are not selected for a contract award cannot be reimbursed for program expenses for the summer pre-freshman program component.

Applications Due: **July 31, 2009**

Notification of Awards: **August 31, 2009**

Project Period: Projects may begin as early as July 1, 2009 and must be completed by June 30, 2010.

Early Alert System

It is evident that we are all operating under significant fiscal constraints. It is also clear that many such funding opportunities will have a short turnaround time. Since we are exploring many federal, State and private foundation opportunities for funding, the Department will initiate an "early alert system" to notify colleges when funding may be forthcoming. This will be provided even before the actual release of applications, or RFPs are available. Through Webinars and E-mail communication, we hope to keep all colleges informed of funding opportunities, prior to the release of an official RFP. An example of this occurred with the Webinar for the Smart Scholars Early College High School proposal. Although funding was not finalized at the time of the Webinar on May 20, 2009, the Department held an information-sharing Webinar so that potential applicants could begin their planning activities. Please watch for another announcement concerning the Smart Scholars program this month.

Copies of the Request for Proposal (RFP), including HEOP guidelines and instructions for submitting proposal applications, may be obtained at: http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/COLLEGIATE/HEOP/introduction_to_heop.htm

Questions regarding this RFP should be E-mailed to: cdpu@mail.nysed.gov by **July 15, 2009**.

A Questions and Answers Summary will be posted at:

http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/COLLEGIATE/HEOP/introduction_to_heop.htm no later than **July 22, 2009**.

cc: Johanna Duncan-Poitier