

Contact: Max Martin
Hispanic Community Council
P.O. Box 371, Dewittville
New York 14728
Phone: (716) 499-5622
MMartin@MyHCCC.org
www.MyHCCC.org

HISPANIC COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

PRESS RELEASE

The Excelsior Scholarship Program

Chautauqua County, January 3, 2017: Hispanic Community Council today announced the endorsement of the Excelsior Scholarship Program proposed by Governor Andrew Cuomo. The Excelsior Program proposal would provide free tuition at New York public colleges to hundreds of thousands of middle and low-income New Yorkers. Governor Cuomo's proposal will help any college student who has been accepted to a state or city university in New York including community colleges. Those with family income less than \$125,000 annually would be eligible.

Studies have shown that financial support to pay for college is critical to ensuring college completion and therefore success after graduation. Students who graduate with debt are less likely to start a small business or to purchase a home, and the consequences of defaulting on student loans can prevent a person from ever realizing their goals.

In response to the Governor's proposal, Hispanic Community Council President Max Martin said, "We have too many Hispanic families having conversations around kitchen tables about whether they are able to afford to send their child to college. This is fundamentally wrong and New York will do better by its residents with The Excelsior Scholarship Program. I look forward to working with the Governor to ensure this vital proposal moves forward."