**Title: Slide 1: NYSED Updates…
Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education For Students with Disabilities**

**New York State Education Department:**

**Regent Beverly Ouderkirk, North Country**

**Advisory Council Co-Chair: Tamara Mariotti, NYSDSC/ MVCC**

**Adult Career and Continuing Education Services Deputy Commissioner, Kevin Smith**

**Slide 2:**

**Advisory Council Charge:**

**The Advisory Council was established to advise the NYS Education Department on polices and practices to improve the transition of students with disabilities to postsecondary education and training, fiscal resource needs and disability-related accommodations and supports that will assist a student with college success.**

**Slide 3:**

**Advisory Council Membership:**

* **New York State Disability Services Council**
* **SED staff from: ACCES, Higher Education and P-12 Education**
* **State University of New York (SUNY)**
* **City University of New York (CUNY)**
* **Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities**
* **Student Advocate**
* **Association of Proprietary Colleges**
* **Proprietary School Council**
* **Regional Bilingual Education Resources Network**
* **Parents of students with disabilities**
* **Student enrolled in postsecondary education with a disability**
* **Transition Specialist**
* **ACCES State Rehabilitation Council**
* **Independent Living Centers**
* **DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK**
* **Learning Disability Association**
* **NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)**
* **NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)**
* **NYS Commission for the Blind**

**Slide 4:**

**Advisory Council Sub Committees**

* **Four Committees were established: Fiscal, Legislative/Regulation, Technical Assistance, and Data Collection.**
* **Each of the Committees meet throughout the year supported by SED staff.**
* **Committees identified short term recommendations for improving access, participation in and completion of postsecondary pursuits for students with disabilities.**

**Slide 5:**

**Recommendations Fiscal Sub-Committee**

* **Initiate a discussion with the appropriate representatives of the State University of New York, the City University of new York, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Association of Proprietary Colleges to support them in meeting the reasonable accommodation needs of students with disabilities. (Fiscal Committee)**
* **Propose additional provisions of support and funds to colleges specifically related to students with disabilities.**

 **Slide 6:**

**Recommendations Legislative/Regulation Committee**

**Revise Readers Aid Program legislation to expand the eligibility requirements and increase student financial support.**

**History information:** Since becoming law in 1936, The Readers Aid Program (RAP) has provided funding of up to $1000.00 per student per year to colleges and universities to use on behalf of the students who are blind, deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing in order to help to meet the costs of note-takers, readers, and interpreter services.

**Current Legislative Action:** to increase the per student award to the program to $4000.00 to include the funds to cover Assistive Technology services for qualified students and to increase the eligibility criteria from Blind and/or Deaf to include hearing impaired and Print disability. To include provisions for eligibility to those non-degree granting proprietary schools located within NY that are approved by the NYSED.

**Slide 7:**

**Recommendations Technical Assistance Committee:**

* Identification and support of a sustainable “Multiple Systems Navigator” cross-system on the transition process including available services and supports for students with disabilities. (Technical Assistance Committee)
* <http://www.msnavigator.org/>

**Slide 8:**

**Recommendations Data Collection Committee**

* Expand SED data collection with public postsecondary institutions (SUNY/CUNY) to link education data in order to gather transition data and require Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision (BPSS) collection of student outcome data. (Data Collection Committee)

**Slide 9:**

**Excelsior Scholarship & Enhanced Tuition program**

* **Be residents of NY State**
* **Plan to attend a SUNY or CUNY or independent 2 or 4 year degree program**
* **Take 30 credits per year and make progress towards graduation**
* **Maintain good academic standing**
* **Be on track to graduate on time with an Associate’s Degree in two years or a Bachelor’s Degree in four years**

**Slide 10:**

* **Excelsior Scholarships** [**http://on.ny.gov/2p6xyNx**](http://on.ny.gov/2p6xyNx)[**https://www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior/**](https://www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior/) **Application**
* **Application Deadline: July 21, 2017**
* **Covers full tuition for eligible SUNY and CUNY students -Up to $5,500, minus amounts received for TAP, Pell or other awards**
* **Recipients agree to live in NYS for the number of years equal to awards received.**

**Slide 11:**

**Enhanced Tuition Awards** [**http://on.ny.gov/2omJpIy**](http://on.ny.gov/2omJpIy)[**https://www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior/**](https://www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior/) **Application (Same application)**

* **Application Deadline: July 21, 2017**
* **Enhanced Tuition Awards of up to $6,000 are available for resident students enrolled in a private college in New York State. This is through a combination of TAP, Enhanced Tuition Award and a match from the private college.**
* **Recipients agree to live in NYS for the number of years equal to awards received.**

**Slide 12:**

**Students with Disabilities**

* **Full-time attendance requirement is eliminated, Must take at least 6 credits or less than 12 credits.**
* **Certification by the college or university**
* **Payment eligibility shall be determined and measured proportionally in equivalence with full-time study**
* **Demonstrated extreme hardship- HESC, in its discretion, has the ability to postpone converting the award to a student loan, temporarily suspend repayment of the amount owed, discharge the amount owed, or take such other appropriate action.**