

Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Operations and Management & Chief Operating Officer

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building 353 Broadway, Albany, New York 12246 www.suny.edu

September 10, 2025

Ms. Nadine Morrell Audit Director Office of the State Comptroller Division of State Government Accountability 110 State Street, 11th Floor Albany, New York 12236-001

Re: Audit Report 2024-S-2

Dear Ms. Morrell:

In accordance with Section 170 of the Executive Law, this is our 180-day response showing actions taken to address the recommendations contained in the State Comptroller's Audit Report of the Oversight of the Educational Opportunity Program.

We are pleased that the audit found that SUNY has appropriate oversight over the Educational Opportunity Program and that the campuses reviewed as part of this audit were generally in compliance with applicable guidance regarding the use of program funds.

We agree with the auditor's recommendations to further strengthen documentation efforts and to ensure expenditures are allowable under the program guidelines. As such, the campuses have taken steps to address these recommendations by incorporating new procedures and implementing software to better maintain counseling records. Examples of actions taken include the following:

- 1. SUNY Oswego all EOP student counseling records are now stored in the Campus's learning management system, Starfish. Starfish is also the centralized advising and recording keeping platform used by the Campus for students to schedule appointments with counselors.
- 2. SUNY New Paltz all EOP student counseling records are now stored electronically and reviewed by the Director and/or Assistant Director on a monthly basis to ensure accuracy and consistency of records.
- 3. SUNY Brockport to ensure expenditures are allowed under EOP guidelines: (1) the EOP office will reconcile expenses monthly to ensure appropriate allocation of budget items,

(2) all expenses for summer academy will be allocated to the appropriate account from the beginning, (3) the EOP office will utilize the assistance and support from the budget office with monthly reconciliation of expenses, (4) all expenditures will be reviewed by the director/assistant director, and (5) all EOP staff have been reminded (re-trained) on the allowable uses of EOP funds.

Per SUNY's mission statement, SUNY is strongly committed to providing "educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population in a complete range of academic, professional and vocational postsecondary programs." For over 50 years, the Educational Opportunity Program has helped to meet this objective by assisting promising students overcome financial and academic barriers to attend a SUNY college, earn a degree, and achieve their life goals.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact me at (518) 320-1266.

Sincerely,

Beth Berlin

Chief Operating Officer

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cc. Chancellor King, Amy Montalbano, Cheryl Hamilton

Governor Kathy Hochul Senator Ortt

Comptroller DiNapoli Assemblymember Barclay

Senator Stewart-Cousins

Assemblymember Peoples-Stokes

Speaker Heastie Assemblymember Pretlow Senator Krueger Assemblymember Ra