

## **Resolution of Support for Financial Aid for Undocumented Immigrant Students**

**Submitted by Steve London**

WHEREAS, New York is among nine states which allow undocumented immigrant students to pay in-state tuition at a public college; and provides this benefit to undocumented students who attend a New York high school for two or more years, graduate, and apply to CUNY or SUNY within five years of receiving their diploma or GED;

WHEREAS, since 2001 New York's policy has helped hundreds of talented students obtain a college education at CUNY and SUNY to the enormous benefit of our state's and city's economy, community and social life;

WHEREAS, many students enrolled at CUNY struggle to pay their tuition and fees, and may be forced to interrupt their education or drop out of college altogether for financial reasons;

WHEREAS, the Congress has repeatedly failed to pass the federal DREAM Act which would benefit these students and provide them with access to federal Pell Grants as well as temporary legal resident status and a path to citizenship; and following Congress' failure, California, New Mexico and Texas have adopted state laws to extend state-funded aid to undocumented college students in their states;

WHEREAS, the New York State Board of Regents proposes that New York extend eligibility for the state Tuition Assistance Program, Education Opportunity Programs including SEEK and College Discovery, and other state-supported financial aid and loan programs including the 529 program to qualified undocumented immigrant students who graduate from a high school in New York State;

WHEREAS, the Professional Staff Congress fought for the 2001 in-state tuition law and has worked closely with student, and immigrant rights organizations, labor and others for policies and law to improve the lives of immigrant students and their families;

WHEREAS, the PSC Delegate Assembly adopted TAP reform as one of its legislative agenda items for the 2011/12 legislative session; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Professional Staff Congress supports the State Board of Regents proposal to reform New York college financial aid programs and related measures to allow financial aid for undocumented immigrant students who qualify for in-state tuition so that they may obtain a college degree; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the PSC will work closely with CUNY students, NYSUT and its higher education affiliates and in coalition with student, labor, immigrant rights and other partners to enact the Regents resolution and other possible related reforms.