

**For Immediate Release:**  
July 16, 2019

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**STATEMENT FROM ASSOCIATION OF PROPRIETY COLLEGES ON CHANGES  
TO GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS**

On July 1, 2019 the U.S. Department of Education (ED) officially rescinded the Obama-era gainful employment regulations, which penalized some higher education programs that graduated students with too much debt relative to their earnings.

APC applauds the US Department of Education’s efforts and believes that the NY model of treating all sectors of higher education equally should be applied at the federal level. Student debt challenges and weak graduation outcomes – especially for low-income students – are pervasive across the higher education landscape. Clear policy guidance and strong enforcement across all sectors of higher education is the best way to improve student outcomes and protect American taxpayers.

In announcing the decision to formally repeal the gainful employment regulations, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos referred to their efforts to add more information to the federal College Scorecard, saying, “All schools should be clear and transparent about their outcomes and all students should have a full range of information available. We’re committed to making that happen.”

APC members have always agreed with the program’s stated aim – to ensure that students enrolled in certain higher education programs receive a quality education that adequately prepares them for gainful employment – we have always questioned the relevance of the metrics the regulation relies on to assess program value, arguing that they are unrealistic and politically biased.

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**About APC:**

The Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC) represents 12 fully accredited, degree granting colleges operating on 23 college campuses in New York State offering associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programs. Our colleges are located across the state from Buffalo, to Long Island, Jamestown to Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and the entire NYC metropolitan area. There are more than 33,000 students enrolled in proprietary colleges throughout New York State and APC member colleges serve more than 26,000 of these students.