The Association of Proprietary Colleges (APC) represents New York's degree-granting proprietary colleges, one of the state's four sectors of higher education. Governed by the State Board of Regents and State Education Department, APC member colleges maintain above-average student outcomes, with graduation rates outpacing any other higher-education sector.

The association's 20 member colleges employ more than 6,500 people on 31 campuses across the state and serve more than 40,000 students pursuing associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.

From marketing to computer programming, health care to visual arts, APC member colleges offer more than 350 degree programs in numerous traditional and emerging fields. And unlike other sectors, they can readily change their curricula to meet the needs of employers.
Improving Access

APC member colleges work to improve access to education for those who strive for a college degree in a focused discipline, including adults returning to college, as well as low-income and minority students of all ages.

Many APC students are the first person in their family to attend college. LIM’s Tae’Lor Roots, a first-generation student, graduated with a BBA in Fashion Merchandising. Tae’Lor’s family was so proud of her and her accomplishments that 27 of them, including her godparents, rented a bus and traveled north to attend the Commencement ceremony. They all cheered as Tae’Lor crossed the stage to receive her diploma.

SVA Graduates More Than 1,000 Students at Madison Square Garden

On Thur., May 14, SVA held its 40th commencement ceremony at the Theater at Madison Square Garden, where more than 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students celebrated the processional with friends and family.

This year’s keynote speaker and honorary degree recipient was renowned opera and stage director Peter Sellars, who reminded graduates of the importance of their role as artists and their obligation to society.

“We are artists,” remarked Sellars, “We reach beyond change and we go to the next step, which is transformation. We take something and work with it and the experience allows something to flower into a state of fulfillment that no one could have seen, but needed to be there.”
Neiman Marcus Executive Vice President Neva Hall (Class of ‘74), Gives Keynote Address at LIM College’s 76th Commencement

LIM College is focused exclusively on the study of business and fashion. Nearly 500 graduates make up the Class of 2015. They received Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Professional Studies (MPS), bachelor’s and associate degrees.

In what has become an annual tradition, several representatives from previous LIM College graduating classes marched in the commencement procession and were seated on stage.

LIM College provides a well-rounded education through the combination of in-class instruction and required internships. The college requires students to complete 130 hours of internships in both their freshman and sophomore years - ensuring students graduate with a full resume.

Located in Manhattan—the nation’s fashion and business capital—it gives students vast opportunities for hands-on experience and professional development. Alumni have gone on to excel at top companies, including The Jones Group, Saks Fifth Avenue, Barneys New York, Harper’s Bazaar, and Chanel.

“I have been blessed with myriad opportunities in retail, and have worked with some of the best retailers in the world. But it all started at LIM, which prepared me for the workforce.”

– Neva Hall

The APC Mission

APC colleges educate diverse student bodies with the knowledge and competencies needed for tomorrow’s careers. Working closely with community employers, our institutions develop relevant and meaningful curricula for an increasingly competitive marketplace. This mission is grounded in APC’s commitment to high educational standards through the assessment of measurable institutional outcomes that ensure significant and sustainable contributions to the economic growth of New York State.

Left: LIM College alumni surround Eliza-beth Marcuse, president of LIM College, in Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center in Manhattan.
Holding True to New York Tradition

The history of proprietary colleges in New York is rooted in tradition and quality education, and it extends back to the middle 1800s. Bryant & Stratton College, founded in 1854, Jamestown Business College (1886), and Utica School of Commerce (1896) are still operating successfully.

Many other proprietary institutions were established in the first half of the 20th century; The College of Westchester was founded in 1915, Plaza College (1916) Berkeley College (1931), Monroe College (1933) and LIM College (1939).

Image, is courtesy of Plaza College. Plaza College, one APC’s earliest members, will hold a commencement for 235 students on Sat., June 27 at the Kupferberg Center, Queens College, NY.

Across the State, 1,464 Graduate from Bryant & Stratton College

Spring of 2015 marked the 158th graduation season for Bryant & Stratton College. The college was proud to have 1,464 students participate in ceremonies across the state, in Albany, Syracuse, Rochester and western New York. A majority of the students (1,288) earned associates degrees; with an additional 160 earning their bachelor’s degrees and 16 diplomas were conferred.

From left, Alexis Risley, Alannah O’Dell, Raychal Bariteau, and Kainen Gwinn pause for a moment at Bryant & Stratton College’s Sat., April 25 commencement at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany. The four graduates - part of the class of 158 - received an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice.
APC students tend to be older than their peers from other institutions in New York, and they more likely to be minorities, female, and financially independent. While attending college, many are working and need the flexible schedules APC member colleges provide. The majority want and need a degree that is immediately marketable.

African-American and Hispanic students attending APC colleges graduate at higher rates than their peers attending traditional two-year colleges.

Monroe College Graduates Light Up Radio City Music Hall

On Tues., June 9, Monroe College presented nearly 3,000 students with a range of degrees and certificates during its 82nd graduation ceremony, which was held at the Radio City Music Hall in Manhattan.

Many students attending Monroe College overcame great odds to receive their degrees. Yencris Richardson, an army veteran living in Bronx, New York, graduated this year with a degree in criminal justice alongside her daughter, Briana Brito, and cousin, Rasslyn Baez.

“We are a military family that travels a lot, so to find a college that embraced us and welcomed us was extraordinary,” said Richardson, whose husband is on active duty as a recruiter in the Bronx. “It has taken me 20 years to complete my bachelors, with my first years spent in the U.S. Army and raising a family. I am so proud of my accomplishment because I get to share it with two wonderful, strong women that I am happy to call family.

"Monroe College has a tremendous veterans' community and is very understanding of the hurdles that former service members face."

Offering Real Opportunity

On-Time Associate Degree Graduation Rates for Black/Non-Hispanic, Hispanic and Disabled Students, 2012

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black/Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statewide Average: 15.8%

Source: NYS Education Department, 2012 Data

Patrice Henry (Class of 2015) pictured with her fiancé Javier Jacobs (Class of 2010). They both attended Monroe College and they are getting married this August.
Monroe College to Launch Human Services Degree Programs

Beginning in the fall of 2015, Monroe College is launching associate and bachelor degree programs in Human Services to meet the growing demand for qualified professionals working in social service agencies, mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities, domestic abuse shelters and community centers.

Graduates Shine in Berkeley College’s Commencement Ceremony

Families and friends filled the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, on Fri., April 24, as Berkeley College awarded nearly 2,300 degrees and certificates to graduates.

Alexia Hill of Rockaway, Queens, NY, Berkeley College Class of 2013, sees her dream come true as both of her sons, Odelle George-Perreira (far left) and Mikal-Jordan George (3rd from left) graduated with the Berkeley College Class of 2015. Celebrating with the family is Will Moya (far right), Berkeley College Campus Operating Officer, New York City.

The Class of 2015 included more than 200 international students and 120 military and veteran graduates. More than 30 percent of the class graduated with honors.

Monroe’s new human services degree programs, offered through its School of Allied Health Professions, are designed to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the needs of diverse communities and individuals. And in keeping with the college’s emphasis on real-world experience, both programs require the completion of two supervised field placements to ensure students are well prepared to serve children and adults in a

Enjoying the College Experience

Alexia Hill and her sons attended Berkeley College in Midtown Manhattan. Odelle George-Perreira, who received a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration – Management, said one of the benefits of Berkeley was that small class size allowed for more interaction with his professors. “It’s easier to be noticed,” said George-Perreira. “If you need extra help, you can see the teacher or go to the Academic Support Center. If you want to get a good grade, you can.”

Five Towns College Class of 2015

Five Towns College, recently celebrated its 41st commencement, at which the college awarded 136 undergraduate, 10 master’s and four doctoral degrees. Of these graduates, 25 are members of the Phi Sigma Honor Society.

Students have a real sense of community at a small institution like Five Towns College.
Jamestown Business College Holds its 129th Commencement Ceremony

On Sat., June 6, 121 students graduated from one of Jamestown Business College’s numerous programs. The achievements recognized ranged from the one certificate offered to two bachelor degrees with different focuses. Of the 121 graduates, there were a total of 26 bachelor degrees, 81 associate degrees, and 14 certificates earned.

This group of graduates included Jamestown Business College’s very first Bilingual Cohort Program, which enabled students to obtain a Medical Office Assistant Certificate. Three students in the program went on to also complete their associate degree in time for this spring’s commencement. The cohort had a graduation rate of 82 percent, and currently, 85 percent of these students have been placed into employment.

Jamestown Business College offers business-focused Associate and Bachelor degrees that include targeted professional development activities.

Briarcliffe College Celebrates its 49th Year of Educational Excellence

On Sat., May 16, Briarcliffe College held its 49th commencement ceremony at the Brentwood Campus of Suffolk Community College. Congressman Lee Zeldin delivered the commencement address to the 650 graduates receiving associate and bachelor degrees.

Over the past two decades, Briarcliffe College has graduated 13,000 students and provided a career-focused education to a diverse student population.

Congressman Lee Zeldin and Dr. George Santiago, Jr. president of Briarcliffe College, prepare to congratulate the Class of 2015 at Briarcliffe College’s 49th commencement.
The College of Westchester Celebrates 100 Years of Serving the Community

On Thur., May 28, 382 students crossed the stage to receive their degrees during The College of Westchester’s 99th commencement ceremony at the Westchester County Center, in White Plains, New York.

The College of Westchester Network Administration Graduate Selected for the 2015 NBA/Cisco Dream Team

David Ortiz, Computer Network Administration major and proud member of the Class of 2015, was selected as one of only 30 students in the country to join the 2015 NBA/Cisco Dream Team. Cisco, a major supplier of computer networking equipment, recently renewed its partnership with the NBA. Members of the NBA/Cisco Dream Team worked at the 2015 NBA All Star Game held in Feb. 2015 and the week leading up to the game to ensure a smooth operation of this international televised sporting event.

The College of Westchester is an official Cisco Networking Academy site in partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology.