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BROOKLYN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER SIGNS PARTNERSHIP WITH SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

Partnership paves the way for Brooklyn EOC students, graduates, employees, and their family members to earn an online bachelor's degree through SUNY Empire

(BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, December 15, 2021) — <u>SUNY Empire State College</u> and <u>Brooklyn</u> <u>Educational Opportunity Center</u> (Brooklyn EOC), celebrated a partnership agreement offering college degree options to the program's students, graduates, employees and their family members. Brooklyn EOC's tuition-free programs provide professional and educational training programs that lay the foundation for lifelong learning, college access, and economic selfsufficiency.

The partnership agreement with SUNY Empire gives Brooklyn EOC participants access to the college's <u>Corporate and Community Partnership Benefits Program</u>. As part of the agreement, SUNY Empire will waive the orientation fee for incoming students and provide a \$100 Better Together scholarship for Brooklyn EOC members who enroll in a degree-seeking program at SUNY Empire State College.

All programs can be completed entirely online to fit the busy lives of working students. Participants will also benefit from SUNY Empire's prior learning assessment, which awards college credit for relevant work and life experience, reducing the overall cost and time needed to complete a degree.

Brooklyn EOC participants may also qualify for one of <u>SUNY Empire's opportunity programs</u>, which provide academic and financial support to underserved students who show promise for college success. SUNY Empire's opportunity programs serve students at all stages of life and learning, full or part time.

SUNY Empire State College Officer in Charge Nathan Gonyea said, "We are honored to support the work Brooklyn EOC does to help members of their community develop crucial educational and workforce skills. Providing access and opportunity is the key to unlocking student potential and building a foundation for lifelong success, and this partnership does just that. We look

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forward to working with Brooklyn EOC, and we are excited to welcome them to the SUNY Empire community."

SUNY Empire State College Senior Director of Opportunity Programs Dana Brown said, "With a significant number of our opportunity program students residing in Brooklyn, I am so pleased to partner with Brooklyn EOC. Having another resource to support our students is vitally important. This provides another opportunity to increase access to higher education and to provide students with the skills and preparation necessary to be academically successful. We look forward to working with Brooklyn EOC to increase supports and opportunities for success for students across the board."

SUNY Empire State College Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships Kylie Byrne said, "SUNY Empire is proud to partner with Brooklyn EOC. Our shared goal of supporting underserved adults as they take the next step in their educational journey will guide our work and empower our students."

Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center Executive Director Jacinth Hanson said, "Brooklyn EOC is pleased to formalize our partnership with SUNY Empire. We encourage our students to commit to lifelong learning to improve their knowledge and earning potential. With its history of serving adult learners, SUNY Empire is a great place for our graduates to further their education. The flexibility in its programming and strong support services make SUNY Empire a great fit for our extended Brooklyn EOC community. We look forward to a very productive partnership as together we prepare and strengthen New York State's workforce."

About SUNY Empire State College

SUNY Empire State College educates 17,000 students per year in person, online, and through a blend of both, at locations in every region of New York and at eight international sites worldwide. Together with one of SUNY Empire's 700 faculty mentors, each student designs their own individualized pathway to a college degree that accommodates their schedule and awards credit for prior college-level learning. SUNY Empire awards approximately 3,000 degrees annually and 94 percent of graduates stay in New York state. Today, more than 92,000 SUNY Empire alumni are entrepreneurs, veterans, and active members of the military, professional athletes, teachers, medical professionals, and leaders in their field, as well as in their communities. To learn more, visit <u>www.esc.edu</u> and follow the college on social media @SUNYEmpire.

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About Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center

Brooklyn EOC (BEOC) is part of a network of 10 educational opportunity centers and two career counseling and outreach centers sponsored by the State University of New York. The centers report to the University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD). These centers deliver community-based, academic, and workforce development programs and services to New York State residents. BEOC is administered locally by New York City College of Technology, CUNY. BEOC offers certificate programs in College Preparation, Direct Support Professional, English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency, Medical Electronic Records, Medical Assisting, Medical Billing and Coding, Office Administrative Professional, OSHA Certification Training, Security Guard Training, and Tourism and Hospitality Operations. Students have access to tutoring and learning resources, student life activities, advisement, career services, and college readiness activities. All programs and services are at no cost to students and provided in a modern facility in downtown Brooklyn, easily accessible to public transportation. For more information, visit www.sunybeoc.org.

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