THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati

SUBJECT: Smart Scholars Early College High School Program

DATE: March 12, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

To provide an update on the progress of the Smart Scholars Early College High School (SS ECHS) Program and the work of the SS ECHS Advisory Council.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy
For Information

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its March 2012 meeting.

Procedural History

The SS ECHS Advisory Council was established in 2010 to monitor the Smart Scholars ECHS program's progress and develop policies to support the program's goals. The Advisory Council is made up of representatives from the 23 Smart Scholars partnerships and several stakeholders. Attachment A provides the list of Advisory Council members.

A major contribution of the Advisory Council has been laying the groundwork and providing advocacy for a State Education Department bill that would make the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funding available for ECHS programs. This bill passed in the Senate (S.5647) in June of 2011. The Assembly introduced the bill in February 2012 (A9312). Major stakeholders have met with the Governor's Office and legislators several times.

To help ensure program integrity as well as ensure that TAP and other potential future funding for ECHSs supports the target population of underserved students, the Best Practice subcommittee of the Advisory Council is drafting a mission statement and a set of core principles for State-approved early college high schools. This document will be presented to the Regents for discussion at its April 2012 meeting.

A major goal of the SS ECHS program is for students to earn college credits that will not only apply toward a degree at the partner institution of higher education (IHE) conferring the credit, but will also be transferable to other colleges. The Advisory Council's subcommittee on Transferability of Credit and Articulation has developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for all IHEs in the SS ECHS network. When approved by all IHEs in the network, the college credits earned by SS ECHS students at other IHEs in the network would be accepted in the same manner as credits of traditional transfer students. This MOU was reviewed by the chief officers at each partner IHE. The subcommittee also received feedback on the MOU from members of the New York State Transfer and Articulation Association (NYSTAA). The subcommittee is in the process of finalizing the MOU with each SS ECHS institution of higher education partner. This MOU will also be presented to the Regents Higher Education Committee for review at its April 2012 meeting.

Background Information

The Smart Scholars Early College High School Program now has two cohorts of school-college partnerships. The first cohort of 11 partnerships, initiated in January 2010 with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is in its second year of implementation. The second cohort, funded by the State and initiated in April 2011, includes 12 new partnerships as well as four Cohort 1 partnerships that received additional funding to expand their programming. Cohort 2 partnerships are in their first implementation year. Attachment B identifies the Smart Scholars ECHSs by cohort.

The SS ECHSs are meeting their mission of serving students traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education. Currently, in the 2011-2012 school year, there are 2,392 students in Cohort 1, 87% of which are students of color. Seventy percent (70%) of these students participate in their school's free and reduced price lunch program. The demographics for Cohort 2 are similar. Of the 1,477 students in Cohort 2, 83% are students of color, and approximately 75% participate in their school's free and reduced price lunch program. Attachment C provides more detailed information on the demographics of each cohort.

During the 2010-11 school year (including the summer of 2010), nine of the eleven Cohort 1 ECHSs offered at least one college level course. The students who took college courses earned a grade of 2.0 or higher in 82% of their courses and a total of 1,923 transferable college credits. During the summer and fall of 2011, students at 9 of the 11 Cohort 1 ECHSs and 5 of the 12 Cohort 2 ECHSs took at least one one-semester college course. They earned a grade of 2.0 or higher in 77% of their courses, and a combined total of 2,085 transferable credits. Attachment D provides a sample of college courses offered to the Smart Scholars students. The scheduled presentation

will highlight several of the strategies being used to promote college readiness and ensure quality college level instruction for Smart Scholars students.

The presentation to the Higher Education Committee at the March 2012 Regents meeting will provide a brief update on the SS ECHS program and the work of its Advisory Council. Performance data on early college high schools and information on the faculty teaching the college courses at the early college high schools will be included.   The presentation will also feature one of the ECHS partnerships, Schenectady Smart Scholars ECHS.   This SS ECHS is a partnership between Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) and Schenectady High School, which is one of four SS ECHS partnerships that received Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 funding. The Schenectady SS ECHS Profile is provided in Attachment E.

<u>Recommendation</u>

It is recommended that the Board of Regents continue to support the Smart Scholars Early College High School Program's efforts to provide ECHS students - students traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education - access to rigorous college level instruction by supporting initiatives that promote the sustainability of ECHSs.

Attachments

Smart Scholars Early College High School Advisory Council
<u>**Chair**</u>
Stanley S. Hansen, Jr., Executive Director
Office of K-16 Initiatives and Access Programs, Office of Higher Education, SED

<u>**Partnership Representatives – Cohort 1**</u>
Martha Asselin, Assoc. Dean for Student Services, Schenectady CCC
George Benson, Theme Coordinator, Albany Early College High School
Marlene Blocker, Principal, Rochester Early College International High School
Sylvia Branchcomb, Assistant Principal, Roosevelt High School, Yonkers CSD
Susan Doyle, Principal, Buffalo Middle Early College High School
Penny Haynes, Dean of Academic Affairs, Schenectady CCC
Martha Olson, Dean of Administration, Bard High School Early College
Deborah Rhem-Jackson, Smart Scholars Project Director, SUNY/College at Old Westbury
Marie Segares, Early College Liaison, New York City College of Technology
Wafa Westervelt, Principal, Freeport Public Schools
Matt Williams, Principal, Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central High School
David Ziskin, Principal, Amsterdam High School

<u>**Partnership Representatives – Cohort 2**</u>
JoAnne Fassinger, Grants Coordinator, SUNY College of Technology at Canton
Lynanne De Tore, Vice Principal, Nottingham High School in Syracuse
Dr. Howard Johnson, Senior Vice President and Provost, Medgar Evers College
Courtney Lamport, Coordinator of Development, Ballston Spa Central Schools
Bentley Whitfield, Project Director, SUNY Farmingdale State College
Pam Smith, Project Director, Niagara Falls Central Schools ECHS
Gladys Palma De Schrynemakers, Associate Provost, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus
Jen McClure, Project Coordinator, Schoharie Central School District ECHS
Kimberly Mitchell, Principal, Pathways College Prep School
Maureen Sayles, Assistant Dean for Grants and Funded Programs, North Country CC
Carline Folkes, Early College Liaison, Pathways in Technology ECHS
Sandra Piacente, Assistant Principal**,** Charles E. Gorton H.S., Yonkers City School District

<u>**Stakeholders**</u>
Katie Campos, Assistant Secretary of Education, Office of the Governor
Cass Conrad, Executive Director, CUNY School of Support & Development
Christina Coughlin, Division of the Budget, New York State
Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Chancellor's Deputy for the Education Pipeline, SUNY
Donald Simon, Asst. V.P. for Governmental Affairs, Monroe College
Jill Lansing, Director of Education Pipeline Strategies
Vincent Marrone, Principal, Public Strategies, LLC
Susan Nesbitt Perez, Vice President, Commission on Independent Colleges & Universities
Lisa M. Timoney, Chief Budget Examiner, Division of the Budget, New York State
Adam Tucker, Senior Program Officer, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Lester Young, New York State Board of Regents

Smart Scholars Early College High School Advisory Council
Subcommittee

<u>Best Practices</u>

Susan Doyle – *Chair*
George Benson
Marlene Blocker
Dr. Marsha Jackson, Assoc. Vice President, Student Affairs, Erie Community College
Joan Kass, Early College Liaison, West Chester Community College
Andrea Mulkey, Field Manager, ECHS SUNY/EdWorks Partnership
Jay Quaintance, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, SUNY
Kathleen Schiefen, Dean of Academic Services, Monroe CC, Damon City Campus
Susan Stoya, Director of Secondary Instruction, Greater Amsterdam CSD

<u>Federal/State Funding</u>

Vince Marrone - *Chair*
Stan Hansen
Martha Olson
David Ziskin
Cass Conrad
Lisa Timoney

<u>Student/Program Assessment</u>

Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers - *Chair*
Martha Asselin
Sylvia Branchcomb
Jill Lansing
Clarice Morris
Valerie Palmieri-Smith, Smart Scholars Teacher Leader, Schenectady SS ECHS
Deborah Rhem-Jackson
Maureen Sayles
Matt Williams
David Abrams, Asst. Commissioner for Standards, Assessment and Reporting, SED
Hedva Lewittes, Director of Assessment SUNY College at Old Westbury

<u>Transfer of Credit & Articulation Agreements</u>

Penny Haynes – *Chair*
Cass Conrad
Vince Marrone
 Susan Nesbitt-Perez
Marie Segares
Carolyn Thompson
Dottie Bellanti, Director of Community Outreach & Grants, D'Youville College
Marcia Drumm, Director of Concurrent Enrollment, Onondaga Community College
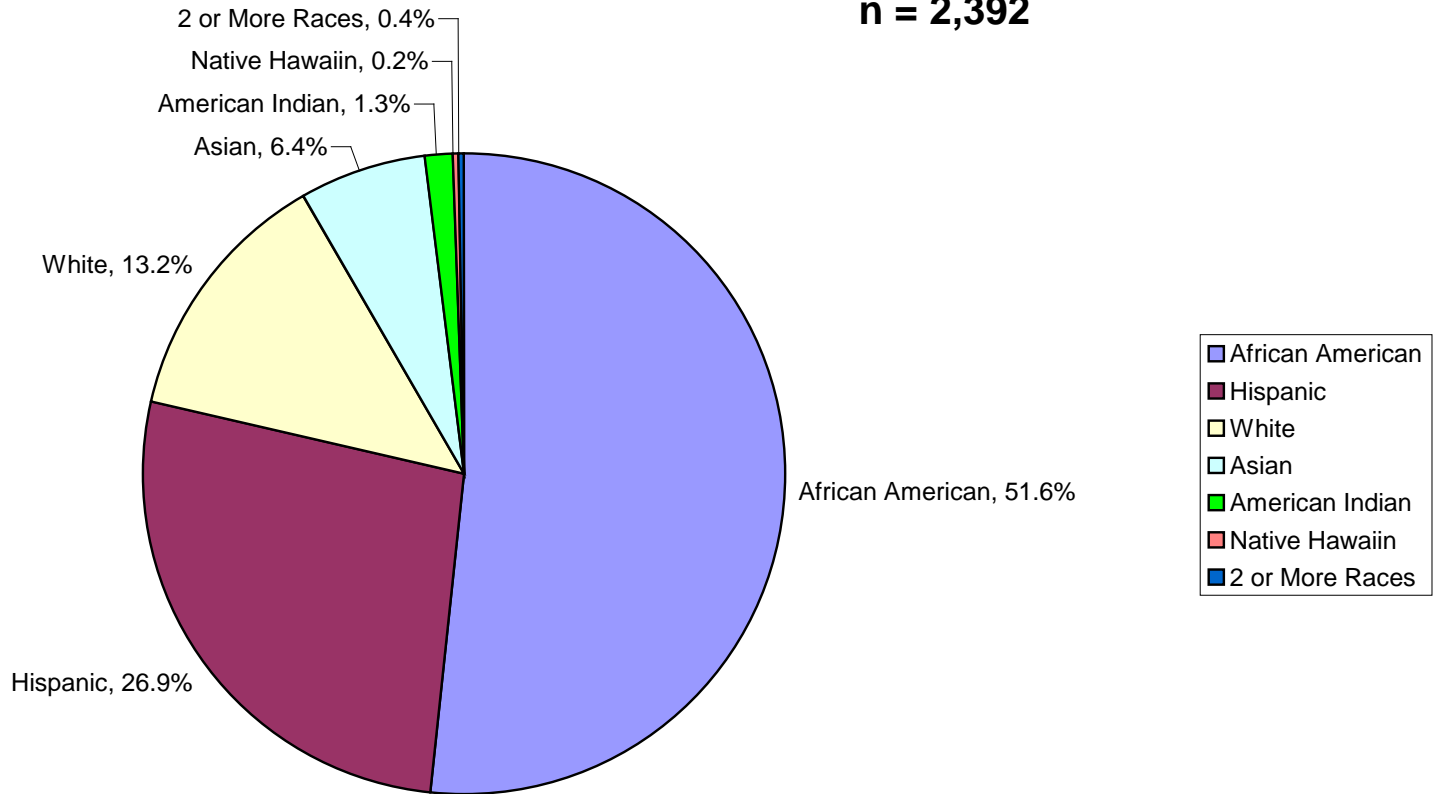Jean Karutis, Director of Trio/Bridge Programs, Fulton Montgomery Community College

Table 1: Smart Scholars Early College High Schools – Cohort 1		
Regents Higher Education Region	**Lead Agency**	**School Name**
Capital	City School District of Albany	Citizenship Early College Academy at Albany High School
Capital	*Schenectady County Community College	Schenectady Smart Scholars ECHS
Central	Syracuse City School District	Syracuse ECHS at ITC
Finger Lakes	*Rochester City School District	Rochester Early College International High School (RECIHS)
Hudson Valley	Yonkers City School District	Roosevelt Early College High School
Long Island	Freeport Central School District	ECHS - Freeport
Long Island	*SUNY College at Old Westbury	Roosevelt ECHS Program
Mohawk Valley	Greater Amsterdam Central School District	Amsterdam ECHS
New York City	Bard College	Bard High School Early College (BHSEC)
New York City	*CUNY NYC College of Technology	City Polytechnic High School of Engineering
Western	Buffalo City School District	Buffalo Middle Early College High School

* Also received Cohort 2 funding

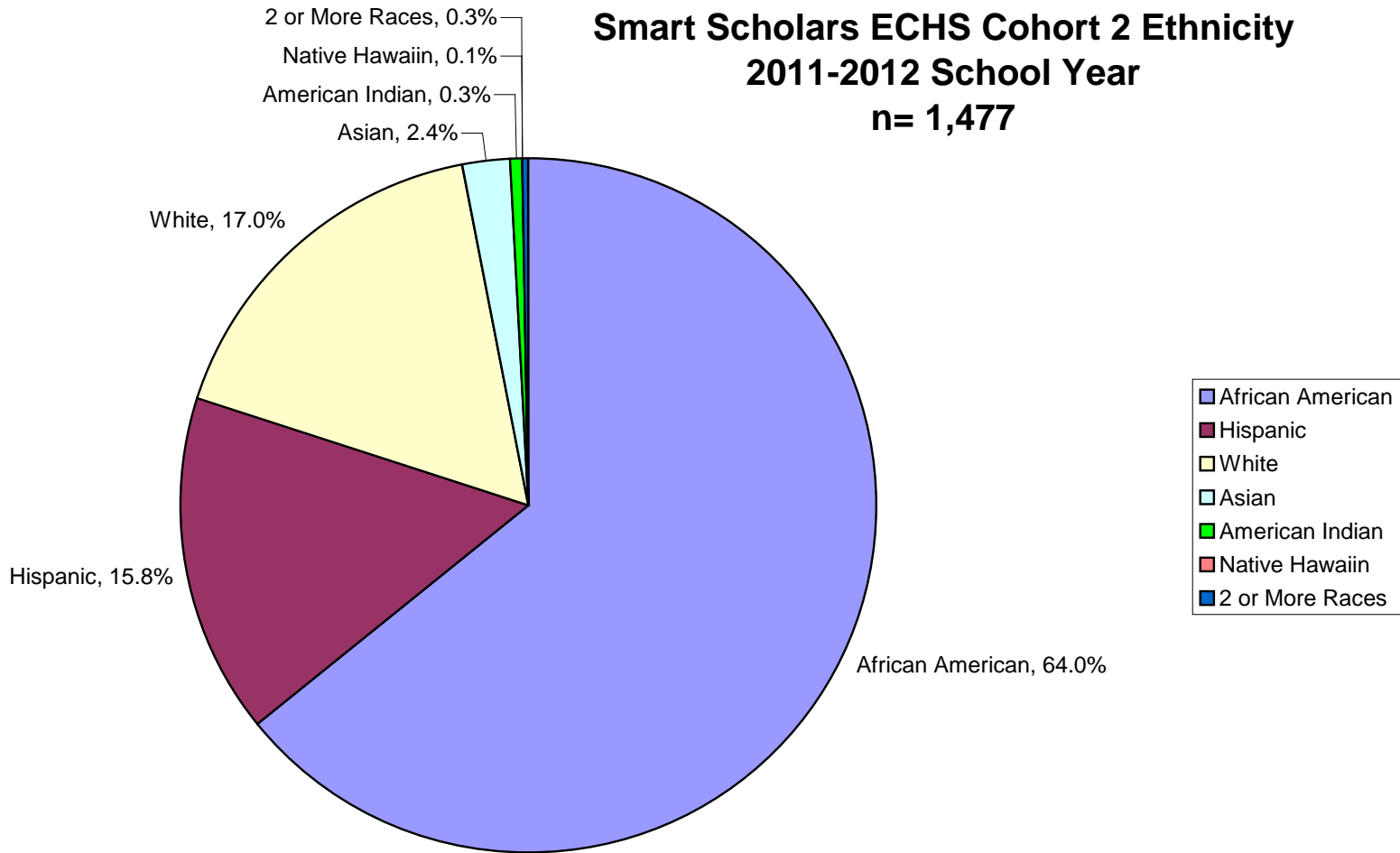| Table 2: Smart Scholars Early College High Schools – Cohort 2		
Regents Higher Education Region	**Lead Agency**	**School Name**
Capital	Ballston Spa School District	Clean Technologies and Sustainable Industries Smart Scholars ECHS
Central	Syracuse City School District	Smart Scholars ECHS Program at Nottingham High School
Hudson Valley	Yonkers City School District	Academy of Medical Professions Smart Scholars ECHS
Long Island	SUNY Farmingdale State College	Farmingdale State College Smart Scholars Partnership
Mohawk Valley	Schoharie Central School District	Schoharie Valley Smart Scholars ECHS
New York City	Pathways College Prep School (NYC/DOE)	Pathways ECHS
New York City	CUNY NYC College of Technology	Pathways in Technology ECHS
New York City	Long Island University	Boys and Girls High School Smart Scholars ECHS Program
New York City	CUNY Medgar Evers College	Smart Science Scholars Program
North Country	North Country Community College	Adirondack ECHS
North Country	SUNY College of Technology at Canton	St. Lawrence Valley ECHS
Western	Niagara Falls City School District	Niagara Falls ECHS

Smart Scholars ECHS Cohort 1
2011-2012 School Year
n = 2,392

2 or More Races, 0.4%
Native Hawaiin, 0.2%
American Indian, 1.3%
Asian, 6.4%
White, 13.2%
African American, 51.6%
Hispanic, 26.9%

Legend:
- African American
- Hispanic
- White
- Asian
- American Indian
- Native Hawaiin
- 2 or More Races

Smart Scholars ECHS Cohort 2 Ethnicity
2011-2012 School Year
n= 1,477

2 or More Races, 0.3%

Native Hawaiin, 0.1%

American Indian, 0.3%

Asian, 2.4%

White, 17.0%

Hispanic, 15.8%

African American, 64.0%

- African American
- Hispanic
- White
- Asian
- American Indian
- Native Hawaiin
- 2 or More Races

Smart Scholars Early College High School
College Course Outcomes

Summer 2010 – Spring 2011 (Cohort 1)
82% of grades earned were 2.0 or higher
1,923 transferable college credits were earned

Summer 2011 – Fall 2011 (Cohort 1 &2)
77% of grades earned were 2.0 or higher
2,085 transferable college credits were earned

Sample of College Courses Offered During Summer/Fall 2011:

Institution of Higher Education	Course	Grade Level(s) of Students	Number of student taking the course	Percent of students earning a grade of "C" or higher
Schenectady CCC	FSS 120: Freshman Success Seminar	9	82	89%
CUNY- NYC College of Technology	CMCE 1110: Construction Drawing I	12	54	72%
SUNY ESF	EFB 120: The Global Environment and the Evolution of Human Society	12	29	86%
SUNY Old Westbury	BS10000.HSR CRN 67001: Plants and Society	11, 12	27	81%
Adelphi University	0101*205 Black History in the United States	11, 12	22	86%

Schenectady Smart Scholars ECHS

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The **Schenectady Smart Scholars Early College High School (SSS ECHS) Program** is a partnership between the Schenectady City School District and Schenectady County Community College. SSS ECHS accepted its first cohort of 100 ninth grade students in 2010. This past year, we accepted another 100 students in Cohort 1 and an additional 19 students into our second grant (STEM) Cohort 2. Schenectady Smart Scholars ECHS is a Program within a small learning community, encompassed within a school. There are approximately 2700 students at the Schenectady High School main campus building who are a part of four smaller learning communities. Smart Scholars is a part of the Business and International Studies House which oversees the advanced academic programs such as: AP, IB, and dual enrollment.

Overall, our goal as an ECHS is to help all of our students prepare for, and achieve at, the collegiate level. We strive to fill the educational and college readiness gaps that these students and families often face. Likewise, we are constantly creating and maintaining strong home-school and school-community relationships that continually benefit our students as they progress through our program.

The **Schenectady City School District** is an urban school system serving nearly 10,000 students in grades Pre-K through twelve. The district includes more than 900 teachers working in two early childhood education centers, 11 elementary schools, two K-8 magnet schools, two middle schools, a success academy for middle school students, one high school, a career and leadership academy, and an adult education center.

One of the greatest strengths of the Schenectady City School District is the rich diversity among the student body. Schenectady is comprised of a population of students who speak more than 27 different languages including Spanish, Pashto, and Farsi.

Schenectady County Community College, established in 1967, is part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system. The College emphasizes high quality academic programs, broad access for students, and responsiveness to the needs of the community. SCCC offers a wide range of transfer degree, career degree, and certificate programs. Additionally, the College has committed and accessible faculty all on an attractive campus.

SCCC operates as a comprehensive community college under the programs and standards of the State University of New York and is sponsored by Schenectady County. SCCC programs are approved by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York and registered by the New York State Education Department. The College is authorized by the Regents of the University of the State of New York to award Associate Degrees and Certificates.

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AT - A – GLANCE

Number of Students:
Cohort 1:
9th Grade – 95
10th Grade – 82
Cohort 2 STEM:
9th Grade – 19

Male/Female Ratio:
Male – 78
Female – 118

Ethnic Makeup:
White – 31%
Asian – 26%
Black/African American – 25%
Hispanic – 18%

Percentage Free/Reduced:
Free – 68%
Reduced – 18%
Full Pay – 1%
Full Pay no application – 13%

College Credits Earned each Semester:
9th grade students begin their program with a one credit Freshman Success Seminar class held during the summer.

10th grade students can earn an average of 6 credits per year including summer courses.

11th and 12th grade students will have the opportunity to earn at least 6 credits per semester.

Average Attendance vs. Others:
Second highest daily attendance across all ninth grade teams for 2nd quarter. Overall attendance continues to rank among the highest across all teams.

Summer Program Offerings:
9th graders complete the Freshman Success Seminar at Schenectady County Community College. This year, we will extend the program to four weeks and include a literacy skills curriculum as well as a Service Learning component.

10th and 11th graders have the opportunity to enroll in Western Civilization, Speech, Science or art classes.

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