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# City University

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Independent Study Strongly Recommends Senior College  
Status for CUNY'S Medgar Evers College 'Without Delay'

An independent study of Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York, mandated by the New York State Legislature, strongly recommends that "Medgar Evers College should be granted senior college status without delay."

The 234-page report, submitted by the firm of Alexander & Associates, Inc. of Washington D.C., proposes a fiscal management model currently in use at the College of Staten Island (CUNY). Under this model, both the baccalaureate and the associate degree programs at Medgar Evers College would be retained, with the State assuming responsibility for funding the baccalaureate programs and the City retaining responsibility for the associate degree programs. The report, which commends both the faculty and the academic programs of the college, notes that Medgar Evers College received an outstanding evaluation during its most recent accreditation review from the Middle States Association of

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Colleges and Schools. It also noted that the New York State Department of Education's evaluation of academic programs at the college determined that both associate degree courses and baccalaureate degree courses would remain registered.

The 1988 legislative mandate to The City University of New York was to contract with an independent nongovernmental consultant for a study of the history, mission, program objectives, curriculum and accreditation status of Medgar Evers College. The firm of Alexander & Associates, which is headed by Clifford Alexander, the former Secretary of the Army, was awarded the contract to conduct the study after a competitive bid process.

Medgar Evers College was founded in 1969 as a senior college to serve the educational and cultural needs of the multinational community located in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. Though it lost its senior college status and became a community college during the New York City financial crisis in 1976, the college has continued to offer baccalaureate degrees and the majority of its graduates receive baccalaureate rather than associate degrees.

For the past three years, CUNY has asked the State Legislature to return Medgar Evers College to senior status. A concrete demonstration of the University's support for the college is the new \$32 million campus at 1650 Bedford Avenue, which was completed in September.

"The University is deeply committed to the well being and growth of Medgar Evers College," Chancellor Joseph S. Murphy said. "I intend to continue my vigorous support for senior college status."

Acting President Leo A. Corbie said, "I am gratified that an independent, objective review of Medgar Evers College concluded that senior college status is merited. I would also note that the report specifically acknowledges the high quality of the Medgar Evers faculty and the exceptional characteristics of our student body."

The Alexander & Associates report recommends senior college status without delay in order to enhance academic programs, increase student enrollments, and bring stability to the institution. In addition, the report recommends that Medgar Evers College adopt a two-tiered admissions policy in which students entering four-year degree programs would be required to meet CUNY'S senior college admissions criteria, and students entering associate and non-degree programs would be admitted under Open Admissions procedures.

The report commended the college for fulfilling its mission to provide "high quality, professional, career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of liberal education" to the student body from the central Brooklyn community.

It concluded that the greatest benefit of senior college status would be "better education for the student body." It also noted that "... budgetary considerations reflect that the net costs to the State of New York would be considerably less than many have estimated," adding that those costs would be significantly reduced when offset by "the benefits which would accrue to the State in terms of breaking the welfare dependency cycle and moving older inner-city students into working professional tax-paying status."

Medgar Evers College is one of 21 campuses of The City University of New York, the largest urban university in the country. It comprises nine senior colleges, seven community colleges, one technical college, a graduate school, a law school, a medical school, and an affiliated school of medicine. More than 188,000 students are enrolled in academic programs offered at campuses located throughout the five boroughs of the city of New York.

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