



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati 

**SUBJECT:** State University of New York Empire State College:  
Master Plan Amendment to offer the Master of Science  
(M.S.) in Information Technology

**DATE:** October 4, 2018

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for the State University of New York Empire State College to offer a program in Information Technology leading to a Master of Science degree, the College's first master's level program in the discipline area of the Physical Sciences?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

#### **Proposed Handling**

The question will come before the full Board at its October 2018 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

#### **Procedural History**

The State University of New York (SUNY) submitted a proposal for a program in Information Technology leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree to be offered by SUNY Empire State College. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program represents the first master's level program in the discipline area of the Physical Sciences.

## **Background Information**

The State University of New York (SUNY) seeks approval to authorize SUNY Empire State College to offer a program in Information Technology leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree.

The purpose of the proposed program is to serve a broad range of professionals in the computing disciplines of Information Systems, Information Technology, Computer Science, and Computer and Networks Technology, who are interested in extending their education in the Informational Technology field. The new program will positively impact not only the College's existing undergraduate programs in computing disciplines but will provide additional options for other students across the state to have opportunities to advance their undergraduate degrees and career prospects to meet the growing demand for information technology specialists.

An academic review of the proposed degree program has been completed by the Department. The Department determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In addition, following the standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the Capital District. Of those canvassed, there were no objections or statements of negative impact, should the program be registered.

## **Related Regents Item**

N/A

## **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize the State University of New York Empire State College to offer its first program in Information Technology, its first master's level program in the Physical Sciences. The amendment will be effective until October 16, 2019, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Amendments to the State University of New York master plan require approval by the Governor. If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will forward the amendment to the Governor for approval. Upon gubernatorial approval, the Department will register the program.