





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

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

**SUBJECT:** CUNY College of Staten Island: Regents authorization to award the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree and Master Plan Amendment to offer a Doctor of Education degree in Community-Based Leadership

**DATE:** April 25, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents authorize The City University of New York (CUNY) College of Staten Island (Staten Island) to award the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree and approve a master plan amendment (MPA) to authorize CUNY College of Staten Island to offer an Ed.D. degree in Community-Based Leadership (CBL)?

### Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

### Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its May 2019 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

### Procedural History

A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the first doctoral level program in the discipline area of education at CUNY College of Staten Island. Regents authorization is also required to award the Ed.D. degree.

## **Background Information**

The proposed program will enable CUNY College of Staten Island to further its mission of “helping its students fulfill their creative, aesthetic, and educational aspirations through competitive and rigorous. . . programs. We embrace the strength of our diversity, foster civic mindedness, and nurture responsible citizens for our city, country, and the world.”

The proposal to offer a doctoral degree in Community-Based Leadership (CBL) responds to a call for the orientation and structure of doctoral work in educational leadership for the improvement of schools and communities in the New York City area. This need for advanced work in leadership has produced among education practitioners working in the New York City area and those who prepare them, a growing demand for doctoral training.

Effective educational leaders must collaborate not only with teachers and other school staff and parents, but also the wider school community to achieve maximum educational outcomes for students. This collaboration flows from a shared commitment to a vision of learning for all students that takes place through a systems network that includes the school, social services, local leaders in business, and community and faith-based organizations. Diverse communities, particularly those with large populations of English Language Learners, also inform the CBL program in how and where to provide skills and perspectives to best access resources from an economy that extends beyond the local community.

The CUNY College of Staten Island’s proposed CBL Ed.D. program has four core areas of study:

- Foundations (12 credits)
- Critical Practice (18 credits)
- Research Methods (9 credits)
- Dissertation Studies (9 credits)

The Foundations core provides a “deep-dive into theories of organization and decision-making central to the field of educational leadership” and includes a two-course series introducing scholarly inquiry in CBL. The Critical Practice core focuses on timely research issues and uses small research cohorts – Inquiry Groups– to analyze current issues in CBL. The Research Methods sequence enhances study into current issues by using different forms of research – ethnography, case study, and participatory action research. Dissertation Studies consists of a three-course sequence that begins with identifying a current problem in CBL and culminates in the candidate’s dissertation.

Candidates in the proposed CBL program will be drawn from the College’s sixth-year professional leadership program and master’s degree programs in education, and working professionals in the fields of social work, health care, and higher education.

U.S. Department of Labor national projections for 2016-2026 provide growth statistics for occupations related to CBL. These include statistics for CBL growth in elementary and secondary schools (for educational leaders, 7.7 percent,) other educational services and educational support services (19.9 percent and 32.2 percent, respectively) and social advocacy organizations (14.2 percent.)<sup>1</sup>

The CUNY College of Staten Island's proposed CBL program will use the College's current space on weekends. Based on projected enrollment and the course schedule, the Community-Based Leadership program will require two classrooms in Year 1, four classrooms in Year 2 and six classrooms in Year 3. All classrooms will require Smart Boards with internet access, equipment, and resources. The space and resources allocated for the CBL program can accommodate the five-year projected enrollment.

The proposed program will be supported by 14 existing full-time faculty in the School of Education, and includes a Director within the School of Education's Department of Educational Studies. A full-time faculty is expected to be added in Year 3 when the program reaches full capacity. All existing and to-be-hired faculty either hold or will hold at the time of their assignment a doctoral degree in their assigned field of study.

The Department canvassed doctoral degree-granting institutions in the New York City region. Of those canvassed, one positive letter of support was submitted, and there were no objections or statements of negative impact. The Department has determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

### **Related Regents Items**

N/A

### **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents authorize The City University of New York, College of Staten Island, to award the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree and approve a master plan amendment to authorize CUNY College of Staten Island to offer a program in Community Based Leadership leading to the Ed.D. degree.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

Amendments to The City 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 proposed program in CBL at CUNY College of Staten Island.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/elementary-middle-and-high-school-principals.htm#tab-6>, March 6, 2019.