



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

**TO:** Higher Education Committee

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

**SUBJECT:** Overview of President Obama's Plan to Make College More Affordable

**DATE:** September 9, 2013

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *John B. ...*

**SUMMARY**

### **Presentation**

This presentation provides an overview of President Obama's plan to make college more affordable. Last month, the President announced a major higher education initiative to address the performance of higher education, the cost to attend college, various innovative approaches to obtaining a college degree and incentives for colleges to keep tuition down.

### **Background Information**

Last month President Obama released a plan that lays out specific initiatives the federal government will be taking to expand access to students and make college more affordable.

The plan proposes three strategies – paying for performance, promoting innovation and competition, and ensuring that student debt remains affordable. These initiatives will include building a rating system that will focus on measuring value and affordability, establishing a \$1 billion RTTT program for higher education, the use of technology to help redesign courses, credit for prior learning and to address student debt, the expansion of the “pay as you earn” program that, while currently in place, is linked to students who earned the degree.

This presentation will provide additional background regarding the President's plan as well as a review of some of the earlier initiatives the President has advanced for higher education.