

Proposal Summary

The City School District of Albany is proposing to partner with Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) and work extensively with the University at Albany (UAlbany) and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) to design and implement an Early College High School within the existing Academy of Engineering at Albany High School, leading to multiple P-16 pipelines for students.

The proposed initiative will enable the Academy of Engineering ~ Early College High School (AOE~ECHS) students to enroll in the partnering community college as high school juniors and seniors, earning a Regents diploma and up to 33 college credits simultaneously, at absolutely no cost to them. While taking college-level courses, AOE~ECHS students will have full access to HVCC faculty, facilities and resources; will have college mentors attending the college; and will receive extensive academic and emotional support built into their daily schedule.

In preparation for this experience, students will participate in a number of low-risk, introductory activities in their freshman and sophomore years, including College 101 and Workplace 101 courses; numerous campus visits to HVCC, UAlbany and RPI and Freshman Forum seminars on the HVCC campus. In addition, incoming 7th and 8th graders will have the opportunity to participate in one-week Summer Gateway Academies, designed to pique their interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields and the AOE~ECHS program.

The initiative will also enable the district to provide exceptional, on-going professional development to the AOE~ECHS staff. Teachers delivering college-credit bearing courses will be mentored by HVCC professors, and will become Adjunct Professors of the community college, allowing them access to all staff development and research opportunities afforded to traditional HVCC faculty. They will also have access to and develop relationships with faculty members at RPI and UAlbany.