Officials mull costs, and potential savings, in Obama community college plan

Deborah Glick. (AP Photo/Mike Groll)

By KESHA CLAKEY 5:32 a.m. Oct. 2, 2015

ALBANY — A federal proposal to provide two years of free community college for all students could actually save New York taxpayers money, a high-ranking legislator told POLITICO New York.

Under a proposal President Barack Obama announced in January, federal funding would cover three-quarters of the average costs of community college, with participating states footing the bill for the remaining 25 percent — allowing for two free years of school for students who attend at least half-time and maintain a 2.5 GPA.
Officials mull costs, and potential savings, in Obama community college plan

By KESHA CLUKEV  5:32 a.m. Oct 2, 2015

ALBANY — A federal proposal to provide two years of free community college for all students could actually save New York taxpayers money, a high-ranking legislator told POLITICO New York.

Under a proposal President Barack Obama announced in January, federal funding would cover three-quarters of the average costs of community college, with participating states footing the bill for the remaining 25 percent — allowing for two free years of school for students who attend at least half-time and maintain a 2.5 GPA.

"Twenty-five percent, that's about what we're doing now," Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, a Manhattan Democrat who chairs the Assembly's higher education committee, told POLITICO New York. "Where we would save money would be on the [Tuition Assistance Program]."

New York State's community college system — including those in both the State and City University Systems — now gets about a third of its funding from the state, a third from the community (usually the county) and a third by the student, Glick said. The state also funds TAP, which covers the cost of tuition for community college students. Federal Pell grants go even further, also helping students pay for other expenses, such as books.

MORE ON POLITICO  But for the 2015-16 school year, the state paid
for 26 percent, or roughly $500 million, of the SUNY community college operating costs, according to SUNY.

"We haven't lived up to our promise of the full one-third," Glick said — so the federal program would be essentially a wash for the state.

According to the most recent data, in 2013-14 the state spent nearly $1 billion on TAP, $235 million of which went towards community college students at SUNY and CUNY, said SUNY spokeswoman Casey Vattimo. Roughly a quarter, or about 60,000, of SUNY's community college students received TAP aid in 2013-14, she said.

Not having to pay for TAP for community college students would help the state save money, and signing on to the federal program could also help counties save money, Glick said.

But she added that how it would work, funding-wise, remains very "amorphous."

Obama's plan requires congressional approval, so it may not come to fruition soon. In July, similar legislation was introduced in both the Senate and House.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office confirmed that it is in talks with the federal government about offering the tuition-free program, as was first reported Monday by the New York Post. Cuomo spokesman Rich Azzopardi said in an emailed statement that federal officials approached the administration and that the governor's office is "reviewing the associated costs."

In the interim, the federal government has set up an advisory board of business and education leaders — including American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten, SUNY chancellor Nancy Zimpher and Stan Litow, an IBM executive and former deputy chancellor of New York City schools — assigned to look at current community college funding programs and formulate the best strategies for the national program.

It's too soon to say what New York's or any states' involvement in the initiative will be and whether it will materialize into a proposal in time for next session, Zimpher told POLITICO New York. "I can only speculate that states are going to be watching this national College Promise initiative to better understand what its intent is and [what it means] for the federal government and the state budgets."

For now, students in New York will still be supported by TAP, Zimpher said, touting that program and Pell grants.

"New York's commitment — both the legislature and the governor — to this concept is very powerful," she said. "Any conversation about increasing access to community colleges and of course ensuring completion is a good conversation ... It really puts a spotlight on what we need in the state to have a fully functioning workforce."

MORE: ALBANY EDUCATION CITY HALL ANDREW CUOMO BARACK OBAMA CITY HALL COMMUNITY
The New York City Health Department is at it again, this time with ads in the subway and on bus shelters.chatting up the glories of IUDs.

"You spent the night in Brooklyn," one brightly colored poster reads. "But you left your birth control in Staten Island. Maybe the IUD is right for you."

The cheeky ad campaign isn't a huge surprise, seeing as these are the same folks who brought New York an app that helps to locate a free condom on a big night out and the program allowing New York City teens to get mental health help via text.

But how did they decide that intrauterine devices, a long-acting form of birth control, should be a conversation starter on the morning commute?
“Sex is part of life. Talking about birth control is part of life,” says Deborah Kaplan, the assistant commissioner for the Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health for the New York City Health Department. “And if we can make this more open, we think more women will be comfortable going to their providers, asking about this and thinking about the different options they have.”

There’s good reason to think that not enough women know their options when it comes to birth control. Of every 10 pregnancies in New York City, Kaplan says, six are unintended.

The health department launched the “Maybe the IUD” campaign this week, aimed at increasing awareness about the IUD as a highly effective and low-maintenance option for birth control. Studies have found that it’s more effective than the pill at preventing
pregnancy, and the models currently in use are considered quite safe. "This is a method that a lot of people don't know about [and] there's a lot of misinformation or lack of information," Kaplan says.

While the IUD — a small, T-shaped device that is inserted into a woman's uterus — might not be for everyone, Kaplan wants women to have accurate information about it. Such as how it's safe for women with a history of sexually transmitted infections. And how it can last for three to 10 years and can be removed at any time without affecting a woman's future fertility.

And although the IUD is the star of this show, the conversation they want to start is about more than one particular form of birth control. Kaplan and her colleagues want women to understand their choices and know where in the city they can get those birth control options for a low cost or free.

In order to get the message out, the health department is partnering with the City University of New York (CUNY). Many of CUNY's students lack access to information and services related to reproductive health care, Kaplan says. And a majority of CUNY students are in their 20s, she says, the age at which half of all unplanned pregnancies occur. "Being able to plan your pregnancies is a critical piece of moving forward with your goals around education."

IUDs and other birth control methods are covered as a primary care benefit with no cost to those with health plans under the Affordable Care Act, Kaplan says. Women who do not qualify for insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act can search for providers who offer birth control for low or no cost, and anyone can find more information on IUDs by visiting the health department's website.
Shaker Aamer fears he will die in Guantánamo Bay

Last UK resident in military prison tells his lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, 'anything can happen before I get out', despite US promising his release

Peter Walker
Sunday 4 October 2015 09.48 EDT

The last British resident in Guantánamo Bay, Shaker Aamer, still does not fully believe he will be freed from the US detention camp despite his promised release, his lawyer has said.

Aamer, 46, who is married to a British woman and lived in London before his detention by US forces in Afghanistan in late 2001, will spend time in hospital on his return to the UK, his lawyer Clive Stafford Smith said, as his health is so poor after 14 years in captivity.

Just over a week ago Barack Obama's administration told the US Congress it intended to free Aamer in 30 days and return him to Britain where his wife and four children still live.

Stafford Smith said Aamer, to whom he spoke on the phone soon after the news, remained sceptical: "It's not so much a matter of disbelieving, as him saying: 'I'll believe it when I see it, and I'm not going to get my hopes up till it happens.'"

He added: "He was cleared in June 2007. That's eight years and three months ago. So he's been told for 3,000 days or so he's going to be freed, and the fact that I come along and tell him he'll be freed - why would he believe it? He believes it when he touches down at RAF Northolt, and gets to see his wife."

Ramzi Kassem, a law professor at the City University of New York who, with his students, co-represents Aamer, told Aamer the news of his impending release in person at Guantánamo. Aamer initially did not believe him, he said.

"I explained it all to him and that under US law we had a 30-day countdown, and at the end of that period the path was clear for his return home," Kassem said. "He kind of sat there silently, for what felt like an eternity but was probably only 10 seconds. And then he started telling me about his shoes, how they were falling apart and held together by duct tape. He undid the tape and the shoes basically fell apart.

"It dawned on me that he hadn't really taken in the news, it went in one ear and out the next, and maybe he kind of dismissed it. For some people when you've been in that situation for so long it's the only rational response, that you must have heard wrong."
“I repeated everything and then he looked at me and said: ‘Are you being serious now?’ I said yes, and then he had this huge smile on his face. So we started talking about how he would envision wanting to return home.”

Aamer alleges he was subjected to sustained torture and mistreatment from the moment he was passed to US authorities in late 2001 in Afghanistan. Aamer insists he was in the country to do charity work. Although the US has described him as a senior al-Qaida figure who knew Osama Bin Laden, he has never been charged with an offence.

Stafford Smith said Aamer was still being mistreated in Guantánamo and had told him he feared he would not be allowed to leave alive: “Totally. He told me to make clear to everyone that if he doesn’t make it, it’s not because he did anything.”

Separately, a transcript of Aamer’s recent phone call with Stafford Smith was released to the Mail on Sunday newspaper, which has campaigned for the British resident’s release. In this Aamer expresses similar sentiments: “I know there are people who do not want me ever to see the sun again. It means nothing that they have signed papers, as anything can happen before I get out. So if I die, it will be the full responsibility of the Americans.”

The newspaper also printed extracts of a statement Aamer gave to the Metropolitan police two years ago in which he detailed the alleged brutality he has faced, part of a Met investigation into allegations of UK complicity in torture and rendition. Aamer said he was interrogated by British agents at Bagram airbase, who would have known he and others were being tortured there.

But Stafford Smith said Aamer did not now want to assist any prosecutions. “One of the remarkable things about him is that he really, really doesn’t want any revenge or consequences on people,” he said.

“He’s told the Metropolitan police that he won’t cooperate in any prosecution of one of the small fry who was told to take part in his torture, because he doesn’t think it’s their fault. What he does want, very much, is a sort of truth and reconciliation process, just to make sure no one goes through this sort of nonsense again.”

Once in the UK Aamer would not immediately return to his family: “He’ll go to hospital first. Shaker is very unwell in many ways, and he needs to have a complete medical checkup.”

Reintegration into family life could be long and difficult, he added: “Shaker has some very human fears. He’s been called ‘239’ for so long that he’s worried that he won’t respond to anything else. Indeed, whenever he talks to me he keeps referring to this chap ‘239’. One of Shaker’s greatest fears is that one of his kids will say, ‘Daddy’, and he won’t reply, because he’s not being called 239.”

Kassem said it may be some time before Aamer speaks publicly: “As appreciative and grateful as he is to everyone who has supported him and protested on his behalf, and wants to thank them, he doesn’t think that’s going to be right when he arrives.”
In his statement to police Aamer recounted being flown to the US's Bagram airbase in Afghanistan shortly before Christmas 2001, where he was stripped naked and kept in a cage inside a hangar. Once there, Aamer said, he was subjected to sleep deprivation and beatings, including having his head knocked repeatedly against a wall.

The maltreatment had not stopped even now, Stafford Smith said: “They’ve certainly got something personal against him. On the other hand it’s not like anyone else there gets treated nicely.

“One of the things Shaker said to me was that when people talk about torture you tend to think about pulling out people’s fingernails and so forth. But as far as he’s concerned the worst aspect of the torture is the day in, day out mistreatment, and if you don’t do exactly as you’re told you’re beaten up.”

More news
Lucille Roberts Gym Allegedly Ejected Jewish Member Over Her Knee-Length Skirt

by Emma Whitford in News on Oct 2, 2015 11:41 am

A Jewish woman from Brooklyn has filed a federal lawsuit against the all-women’s gym chain Lucille Roberts, alleging that she was repeatedly harassed by employees at two of the gym’s Brooklyn locations for wearing a knee-length skirt that adhered to Orthodox Jewish rules of modesty.

Yosefa Jalal says that she was ejected from a kickboxing class because of her skirt on July 1st, under threat of police intervention. That day she posted on Facebook, “I went to join a class that was going on and ten minutes into it the lady at the desk came up and told the instructor to stop the class unless I took off my skirt. I refused so she stopped the class.”

Court papers detail that, “angered by the class interruption, other Lucille Roberts patrons began to get frustrated with Ms. Jalal. They told her: ‘just take it off.’ Some participants screamed at Ms. Jalal.” An employee then told Jalal that police were en route. Jalal quickly left, and soon received a letter terminating her membership.

“All I want is to work out and take classes like everyone else,” Jalal said in a statement. “It isn’t fair for Lucille Roberts to target me because I’m Jewish.”

A Long Island native and elementary school teacher studying for an education Masters at Brooklyn College, Jalal was a regular member of Lucille Roberts from the fall of 2011 until this summer—first at the gym’s Bay Shore location, and later at its Kings Highway and Flatbush outposts.

According to court papers, Lucille Roberts’ stated mission is to “provide strong, sexy and confident women with a place they can call their own.” Although the gym maintains a dress code, and discourages flannel, denim, and “street clothes,” it does not formally prohibit skirts. The gym does, however, put a premium on appearances. From the Code:
This may be a ladies gym but you should still look your best. Studies show you workout longer, faster and harder when you have on a nice outfit. Studies also show you’re 75% more likely to run into your ex on a day where you wear embarrassing sweatpants and a stained t-shirt.

The lawsuit alleges that Jalal’s skirt (pictured below) "could not possibly interfere with any gym equipment, and did not interfere with any gym equipment," due to its "length and fit."

Jalal in her skirt (via Emery Celli Brinkerhoff & Abady, LLP)

The lawsuit alleges that Jalal was first harassed in October 2013, when a manager at the Kings Highway location approached her while she was on the elliptical machine and allegedly "shouted" that she couldn’t wear the skirt.

For a full year after that encounter Jalal attended the gym regularly, in a skirt, without incident. However, the following October another Kings Highway manager asked Jalal to remove the skirt, and instead wear a "long t-shirt." When she refused, Jalal was told to leave the gym. This prompted her to attend Lucille Roberts’ Flatbush location, where, in June, she was accused of "trespassing" for working out in her skirt. Assured by an NYPD officer that she was not, in fact, trespassing, she continued to frequent the Flatbush gym—until the kickboxing incident in July.

According to the lawsuit and multiple comments on Jalal’s Facebook wall, other Jewish women have undergone similar harassment at Lucille Roberts. "I was also told this at the Lucille on Flatbush Ave that I wasn’t allowed to work out with my skirt over my leggings so I left," wrote one commenter on July 1st. "Same thing happened to me at Lucille Roberts... Since when is wearing a skirt illegal??" wondered another.

"A half century after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we still have a company discriminating on the basis of religion," Jalal’s attorney Ilana Maazel said in a statement. "The repeated harassment by Lucille Roberts is inexplicable and indefensible."

In addition to damages, Jalal is suing for her re-admittance to the gym with a full membership, and explicit permission for all observant Jewish women to wear knee-length skirts at Lucille Roberts facilities.
Lucille Roberts' attorney Maria Patrizia Zucaro did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

**UPDATE:** Zucaro issued the following statement this afternoon:

Here at Lucille Roberts we take the safety of our members very seriously. Our decision to uphold a dress code policy, consistent with industry standards and our equipment manufacturers, is not an attempt to hinder any personal religious beliefs. Lucille Roberts is dedicated to providing a safe and healthy exercise environment for all our members.

Contact the author of this article or email tips@gothamist.com with further questions, comments or tips.
NYC's Health Department Launches 'Maybe The IUD' Campaign To Help Women Choose The Best Birth Control

Oct 4, 2015 05:05 PM  By Stephanie Cassile

The health department's latest campaign aims to help women make informed choices when it comes to birth control, NYC health

Subway rides are now doubling as sex education, thanks to a new campaign from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, called 'Maybe The IUD.'

Although, it's not just subways. According to a campaign press release, NYC's health department will roll out bus shelter ads, social media and print materials, as well as a dedicated website that ultimately stresses the importance of getting accurate information about contraceptive options, so that every woman can choose the method that best meets her needs and lifestyle. In addition to the ad pictured above, another reads, "The IUD is 99 percent effective at preventing pregnancy. That's one less thing to worry about." IUD is short for intrauterine device — a T-shaped device a woman's health provider can implant into her uterus, where it can effectively prevent pregnancy up to 12 years after the fact, Planned Parenthood reported.

"Sex is part of life. Talking about birth control is part of life," Deborah Kaplan, the assistant commissioner for the health department's bureau of maternal, infant and reproductive health, told NPR. "And if we can make this more open, we think more women will be comfortable giving to their providers, asking about this and thinking about the different options they have."

Kaplan added that in NYC, six out of every 10 pregnancies is unintended. And since the IUD in particular has become one of the more popular forms of birth control, Kaplan and her team believe this campaign will help to dispel any myths (similar to what actress Jessica Biel is doing) and clear up misinformation.

True, the IUD isn't for everyone — as effective as it is, it still remains one of the more costly forms of contraception. But that’s also the point of the campaign, to reinforce that women have many options, some of which are low-cost and even free.

"All women, regardless of the circumstances or ability to pay, have the right to make informed choices about their reproductive health and act on those choices by receiving accurate information and easy access to the full range of birth control options," said health commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett.

To help spread the word, NYC's health department has partnered with the City University of New York (CUNY), where NPR cited that "many of CUNY's students lack access to information and services related to reproductive health care." Perhaps unsurprisingly the unintended pregnancy rate among students in their 20s tends to err on the higher side.

"Being able to plan your pregnancies is a critical piece of moving forward with your goals around education," Kaplan said.

Bassett said that this is the first time a municipal health department has done this, and she's proud to be "leading the way."

"Maybe The IUD" is one part of a five-year initiative developed to "enhance and elevate community dialogue and engagement on sexual and reproductive justice." Women can visit the health department's website for more information.
Real Estate Board’s John H. Banks: A Regular Joe for a Real Estate Honcho

His down-to-earth approach and political adeptness were key to getting the job

For John H. Banks III, the new president of Real Estate Board of New York, avoiding neckties may be a reflection of his blue-collar roots. PHOTO: STEVE REMICH FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By KEIKO MORRIS
Oct. 2, 2015 7:48 p.m. ET

John H. Banks III is no fan of the necktie. He comes from a working-class family, and he enjoys doing things where the Windsor knot would be out of place, like going to a Yankees game or tending his garden.

His down-to-earth approach, along with his frankness and political adeptness, are a good fit with his new job as president of the Real Estate Board of New York, said people who know him and those who helped select him.

The 54-year-old Mr. Banks is the fourth president of REBNY, an organization that represents New York City’s real-estate industry.
In July, Mr. Banks succeeded Steven Spinola, REBNY’s chief for almost 30 years, and became the group’s first African-American leader. He came from Consolidated Edison Inc., where he worked 14 years as head of government relations.

Mr. Banks’s relationships in Albany and city government as well as his understanding of how both government and business work were important reasons for his selection, according to members of REBNY’s search committee. Another was his modesty.

“He doesn’t have a personality that deals with powerful figures one way and the man on the street another way,” said Mary Ann Tighe, chairman emeritus of REBNY and chief executive of the New York Tri-State region for CBRE Group Inc., a real estate services firm. “He is always John.”

For those who have worked with him—and those who have disagreed with him—the appeal of Mr. Banks is his ability to be firm and deliberate yet still inject levity.

Gary LaBarbera, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, dealt with Mr. Banks when he was at Con Edison and expects to sit across the table from him in his role at REBNY.

“He has always had the ability to turn a quick joke to lighten a moment,” said Mr. LaBarbera, who also praised Mr. Banks for his straightforwardness. “He doesn’t pull punches. I respect that very much.”

As for the necktie, Mr. Banks wears one if he has to but sees it as a vestige of a bygone era, an accessory with no purpose except to attract spills and run up his dry-cleaning bill. His avoidance of ties is more a matter of comfort and, he mused, perhaps a reflection of his roots.

“I grew up in a blue-collar family,” Mr. Banks said. “That’s how I look at myself.”

The second oldest of five children, Mr. Banks recalled his youth in New Rochelle, N.Y., as idyllic and disciplined. His mother, who was a nurse, made sure her children went to summer camp but ran a tight operation—he teasingly called her General Patton. She became a single parent when his father, a bartender, died of cancer when Mr. Banks was 17.

His parents instilled in their children the importance of participating in the
The Weekend Profile | John H. Banks III

- President of Real Estate Board of New York
- Spent 14 years at Consolidated Edison Inc.
- Worked in New York City government; positions included council speaker’s chief of staff
- Graduate of Manhattan College and Baruch College
- Lives in Pelham Manor, N.Y., with his wife and their two children
- Likes to garden and is a Yankees fan

Today, Mr. Banks lives in Pelham Manor, N.Y., with his wife, Lisa Gomez, and their 10-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter. This summer, he grew jalapeño peppers for the first time and pickled a batch. He thought his handiwork tasted delicious; his children were of another mind.

At home, Mr. Banks is the newcomer to real estate. Ms. Gomez is a partner and the chief operating officer at L+M Development Partners Inc., a developer of affordable and market-rate housing.

“T knew of the industry,” he said. “But never to the detail I am enmeshed now.”

Mr. Banks earned a bachelor’s degree in economics and government from Manhattan College in January 1985. In late 1986, he began working as an investigator in Mayor Edward Koch’s office of operations.

He went on to become an operations analyst and then moved to the City Council’s finance division, where he rose to deputy director. During his time with the council, he received a master’s degree in public administration from Baruch College.

The jump to Con Edison came in 1999. He was lured back to public service by an offer in 2000 to be chief of staff to then-council Speaker Peter Vallone Sr. He advised the speaker for about a year and a half.

“I relied a lot on the advice of John because I knew his advice would be both sides of the story and would be fair,” Mr. Vallone said.

Con Edison Chief Executive John McAvoy described Mr. Banks as the “go-to guy” when the company needed to reach out to the community and elected officials. Mr. McAvoy credited Mr. Banks with helping secure federal funds to
rebuild utility infrastructure after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and with effectively lobbying to reduce a state customer utility tax that had been raised during the economic downturn.

In his short time on the job, Mr. Banks already has positioned REBNY behind a bill to streamline the city's landmarking process. Soon, he will negotiate a wage deal with Mr. LaBarbera's group tied to a tax exemption program.

For Mr. Banks, the REBNY job was his next logical step. When a headhunter asked him if he knew anybody who would be good for the position, Mr. Banks recalled sending just one word back: "Me."

Write to Keiko Morris at Keiko.Morris@wsj.com
BROKERS WEEKLY

WHO'S NEWS: Tsao jumps to BHS from Elliman

BY REW • OCTOBER 2, 2015

Brown Harris Stevens, the exclusive affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate, announced that Kathy Tsao, an agent with nearly 20 years of experience, has joined its
Flagship Park Avenue office as a licensed associate real estate broker.

Prior to joining Brown Harris Stevens, Tsao was a top-producing broker at Douglas Elliman Real Estate, where she developed consistently generating exceptional sales with both new and return clients.

In addition, Tsao served as the chair of the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA), an organization with 12,000 members, charged with improving homeownership rates for Asian Pacific Americans.

She has also served as an advisor for the Chinese American Real Estate Association in New York City.
Throughout her real estate career, Tsao has developed a vast international clientele focused on luxury condominiums, investments and single family to multi-family properties.

She guides buyers and sellers through the process of evaluating the market value of a property and leverages her expertise in negotiating, sales and marketing to help clients achieve their real estate goals.

Tsao holds a Bachelor’s of Science degree from St. John’s University, as well as a Master’s degree in marketing from The New York Institute of Technology.

Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group has named Heather Wyse sales director of 101 Wall, the Art Deco era condominium conversion designed by Dutch designer Piet Boon and located steps from the East River waterfront esplanade.

Wyse has over a decade of New York luxury real estate experience having worked at The Corcoran Group and Triumph Property Group.

Most recently, she was a sales manager at Toll Brothers City Living where she was directly involved with over $500 million in new development sales, heading up the sales efforts at several buildings including The Sutton, 1110 Park Avenue, and 160 East 22nd Street.

Daniel Gale Sotheby’s International Realty (DGSIR) announced that Dee Donovan, one of the Northport area’s top producing agents, has joined its Northport sales team.

Over the course of more than 15 years in the real estate industry, Donovan has
accumulated numerous awards and recognition for her accomplishments as a sales, listing and marketing specialist. Her honors include thelisting Agent of the Year, Top Sales Volume Agent and Winner’s Circle Award. Her expertise includes working with both buyers and sellers of residential properties, town houses, condos, co-ops and land as well as short sales and commercial properties.

Brown Harris Stevens, the exclusive affiliate of Christie’s International Real Estate, announced that Eileen Mintz, an agent with nearly 20 years of experience, has joined its flagship office as a licensed associate real estate broker.

Prior to joining Brown Harris Stevens, Mintz held a senior broker position at The Corcoran Group Real Estate, where she spent more than 12 years.

A consistent member of Corcoran’s “Multi-Million Dollar Club,” she has been named in top three percent of Corcoran agents and has been recognized as a member of The Corcoran Group Silver Council. Additionally, Mintz has been named in top,000 sales associates nationwide by Corcoran’s parent company, NRT.

Previously, she held the position of a licensed real estate broker at Douglas Elliman Real Estate, where she received industry-wide recognition for consistently generating extraordinary sales.

Specializing in New York City’s high-end residential coops, condos, and investment properties she develops close professional relationships with her clients by assisting in every step of the real estate process including finding the mortgage broker, working with attorneys and assisting executors with sales.

Mintz holds a Master of Science from Brooklyn College, a Master of Social Work degree from Adelphi University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter University. She is a longstanding member of the Real Estate Board of New York.
What's on TV Saturday

By KATHRYN SHATTUCK  OCT. 3, 2015

8 P.M. (HBO) AMERICAN SNIPER (2014) A beefed-up Bradley Cooper received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Chris Kyle, a Navy SEAL sniper who served four tours of duty in Iraq, where he tallied 160 confirmed kills, only to be shot dead in 2013 by a Marine veteran he had taken to a Texas gun range to help deal with post-traumatic stress disorder. Sienna Miller plays Taya, the wife left behind as Mr. Kyle returns to the war zone time after time. “The politics of the Iraq war are entirely absent, which is a political statement in its own right,” A. O. Scott wrote in The New York Times about Clint Eastwood’s controversial adaptation of Mr. Kyle’s memoir. “And though George W. Bush’s name is never invoked, ‘American Sniper’ can be seen as an expression of nostalgia for his Manichaean approach to foreign policy. It can equally — and this may amount to the same thing — be seen as upholding the Hollywood western tradition of turning complicated historical events and characters into fables and heroes.” In other words, he added, “it’s only a movie.”

7 P.M. (13) THIS OLD HOUSE A new project begins as the general contractor Tom Silva, the master carpenter Norm Abram and their crew help Katherine and Murat Bicer renovate their 1895 Victorian in Belmont, Mass., by rebuilding the once-grand front porch, opening up the kitchen and converting two bedrooms into a master suite. In a new season of “Ask This Old House,” at 7:30, the landscape designers Roger Cook and Jenn Newada work with students to spruce up a school garden.
**8 P.M. (NBC) LIVE FROM NEW YORK!** Archival footage, stolen moments and interviews with actors, writers, musical guests and crew members trace 40 years in the history of “Saturday Night Live.” At 11:30, Miley Cyrus opens the show’s 41st season as both host and musical guest.

**8 P.M. (Lifetime) THE UNAUTHORIZED BEVERLY HILLS, 90210** (2015) This latest installment in Lifetime’s “Unauthorized” franchise reimagines what happened behind the scenes in this series’s first four seasons.

**9 P.M. (13) BULLITT (1968)** Steve McQueen shows what he has as Lt. Frank Bullitt, a San Francisco cop with a fast car who is out to find the kingpin who killed a witness under his protection — and save his career from the wrath of a politician (Robert Vaughn). Jacqueline Bisset is Cathy, the love interest, in this film from Peter Yates. McQueen “embodies his special kind of aware, existential cool — less taut and hard-shell than Bogart, less lost and adrift than Mastroianni, a little of both,” Renata Adler wrote in The Times, adding that he “simply gets better all the time.”

**9 P.M. (ABC Family) FAN GIRL (2015)** When she has to come up with a final project in her filmmaking class at school, Telulah (Kiernan Shipka), a sarcastic 15-year-old, finds inspiration in her latest obsession: the band All Time Low. Now, if only she could keep her mother, Mary (Meg Ryan), off social media — and out of her life.

**9 P.M. (CUNY) WALLANDER: THE SECRET** After a dead boy is abandoned in a barn, Kurt (Krister Henriksson), Linda (Johanna Sallstrom) and Stefan (Ola Rapace) investigate the world of child abuse and try to come to terms with their own secrets in the process.
College Students Protest Prison Investments

Campaigns come amid nationwide protests against police tactics and the criminal-justice system

A group of students at Wesleyan University met with school President Michael Roth during a 24-hour sit-in at his office last spring. PHOTO: DANIEL KIM

By MIKE VILENSKY
Oct. 2, 2015 7:39 p.m. ET

Columbia University senior Asha Rosa approached a campus administrator last year and said she needed a list of all the school’s investments for her urban-studies thesis, a tale she invented because she didn’t believe the school would
otherwise oblige.

Ms. Rosa and other activists then published some of the information, showing Columbia had more than $7 million of its endowment in prison-related holdings. In June, the school agreed to divest from those companies.

“IT's a funny story now,” she said. “But I think there should have been more access to the information. You can’t organize around divestment without knowing what the university investments are.”

The Columbia students are among activists on college campuses who have called on campus-governing boards to move university investments out of private-prison companies such as the Corrections Corp. of America.

The campaigns come amid nationwide protests against police tactics and the criminal-justice system. Students say the private-prison companies have contributed to and profited from incarcerating too many people and unfairly target racial minorities and low-income people.

“I felt I was personally implicated, because as a student I was paying tuition,” said Gabriela Catalina Pelsinger, a recent Columbia graduate who helped organize the divestment campaign.

A spokesman for Corrections Corp. said: “These campaigns are yet another unfortunate example of the lack of seriousness with which political activists approach the very real and practical challenges our nation faces.”

A spokeswoman for Columbia had no comment on the activist group’s tactics but said the university’s decision to divest itself of the private-prison holdings “reflected Columbia’s tradition of student activism on important issues of the day and was informed by the discussion among many interested parties within the university community.”

The divestment efforts echo campaigns in the 1970s and 1980 in which student groups pushed colleges and universities to rid themselves of holdings in corporations doing business in South Africa. In recent years, as part of a fight
against climate change, activists have called on campus-governing boards to move investments out of oil, gas, and coal companies.

The calls from students for more information about school investments have caused a natural tension, analysts said, because private institutions often keep their investment strategies quiet to maintain a competitive edge.

Many schools pool money into diversified portfolios overseen by external money managers, and administrators aren’t often inclined to reveal the details.

Fossil-fuel companies and security companies such as Corrections Corp. “are relatively big companies, so you can’t really avoid them easily if you have billions of dollars in your portfolio,” said Roger Ibbotson, a Yale University finance professor. “They’re likely to be in there.”

Public schools are subject to Freedom of Information Law requests, a tactic taken up by students at the City University of New York. But even through FOIL requests, activists at CUNY have only discovered snippets of the school’s total holdings.

Private schools can be responsive to some FOIL disclosures but releasing holdings information is generally at the discretion of trustees and administrations. “[They don’t need to be transparent in the same ways a public sector firm might be,” said Mr. Ibbotson. “[Private] universities don’t have to be. It gives them an edge.”

At NYU, where student activists have been unsuccessful in getting the university to divest from fossil fuel companies, efforts have turned to private-prison divestment over the past year.

“When NYU divest started we had no idea what the school was investing in,” said Davis Saltonstall, an NYU student who was part of the student divestment campaign. A two-year campaign yielded information about the school’s fossil-fuel investments, but he said the other parts of the endowment are still “a complete mystery.”

John Beckman, a spokesman for the university, said the school doesn’t typically disclose such information. “Presumably, the reason for disclosing the specifics of all our holdings...would be to propose all sorts of prohibitions on or changes to university investments, which we think is an unwise approach to fulfilling the endowment’s purpose of serving the university.”
In their defense in the face of the divestment movement, fossil-fuel companies have said they are funding alternative-energy sources and divestment would hurt technological innovation.

At Wesleyan University, in Connecticut, students called on trustees to divest from private-prison companies, fossil-fuel companies, and companies supporting Israel.

A 24-hour sit-in at the school president’s office last spring ended when the president, Michael Roth, met with students and said he agreed the school shouldn’t be invested in private-prison companies, students said.

Just hours later, they said, Mr. Roth emailed them to say he had checked, and Wesleyan wasn’t invested in private-prison companies in the first place.

Student-activist Maya McDonnell said her group was struck by how quickly Mr. Roth had been able to find out and report back on the school’s investments.

“Transparency is a lot more possible than it has been presented to us,” she said. “We’re starting to realize we could hold the administration to a higher bar.”

Write to Mike Vilensky at mike.vilensky@dowjones.com
Man arrested for threatening school shooting at CSI, cops say

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — A former College of Staten Island student threatened to shoot up the school after he was tossed from a dorm for knocking on women's doors, according to authorities.

Clive Wallace, 20, of the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, made his threat on a CSI Class of 2018 Facebook group Wednesday night — a day before a deranged shooter killed nine people at Umpqua Community College in Oregon.

"Might have to shoot a couple of these thots at a school called CSI. If I hear my name in another b--- mouth, I'm putting a bullet thru a b--- brain, word to my dead... 4th floor south right... say less. And if you think I'm playing, the next time I knock, it's not gonna be for no paper towel," he wrote, according to a criminal court complaint.

Thot, a derogatory word for women, stands for "that hoe over there."

On Tuesday night, Wallace had been knocking on female students' doors in the southern building of the Dolphin Cove Student Housing Complex, asking for paper towels, a law enforcement source said.

That made a few of the students "uncomfortable," the source said. They complained to a residential advisor, who, along with other staff, told Wallace to leave.

On Wednesday, Wallace spoke with a current student and, when he learned that some of the women in the dorm had been talking about him, he decided to post his threat, the source said.

"Mr. Clive Wallace is not a currently enrolled student at the College of Staten Island."
"He was a registered guest of a resident, argued in for the day, at the Dolphin Cove residence halls," CSI spokesman Ken Bach said. "As this remains an active investigation of the NYPD, the College can offer no further comment."

Bach could not immediately confirm whether Wallace had attended classes at CSI, though law enforcement sources referred to him as a former student.

Wallace was arrested Friday and charged with second-degree aggravated harassment, a misdemeanor, according to information from Acting District Attorney Daniel Master's office.

He told police, "I scribbled a stupid status on Facebook which goes as follows," and quoted his post, the complaint against him alleges.

After Wallace's arrest, CSI Director of Public Safety Robert A. Wilson sent out the following message to students:

"An individual who posted a violent threat on social media against the CSI community has been apprehended and is currently in Police custody. The College's Office of Public Safety worked closely with the NYPD during the investigation.

"We have no reason to believe that there is any further threat to the College community at this time and will update if the situation warrants. Please review the College of Staten Island's Public Safety website to learn more about the College's Emergency Preparedness."

Wallace was arraigned in Criminal Court on Saturday, and remains held on $3,500 bond or $1,500 cash bail until his next court appearance Friday."
MAGAZINE

An article on Sept. 20 about Hello Barbie, a talking toy by Mattel, misstated the role of Michelle Chidoni at the company. She is a spokeswoman, not a marketing chief.

An article on Sept. 13 about college tuition referred incompletely to the authorship of an analysis of a program at CUNY that helped improve the graduation rates of its community colleges. That analysis was written by Henry Levin and Emma García, currently an economist at the Economic Policy Institute. Levin was not the sole author.

The Times welcomes comments and suggestions, or complaints about errors that warrant correction. Messages on news coverage can be e-mailed to nytnews@nytimes.com or left toll-free at 1-888-NYT-NEWS (1-888-698-6397). Comments on editorials may be e-mailed to letters@nytimes.com or faxed to (212) 556-3622.
Cuomo: NY hospitals, research institutions get $3 million for prostate cancer research

OCTOBER 03, 2015 6:30 AM • ROBERT HARDING | ROBERT.HARDING@LEE.NET

Twenty medical centers and institutions will share $3 million to study new ways to detect and treat prostate cancer.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the grants this week. The recipients will be tasked with determining which research projects will be funded.

The state hopes the research will lead to more funding from the Department of Defense and National Institutes of Health.

Prostate cancer is the second-most common cancer among men in New York. One out of every six men will developing prostate cancer. The disease tends to affect men who are at least 65 years old.

"This form of cancer affects thousands of New Yorkers each year and ongoing research remains our best avenue to fight, treat and ultimately eradicate it," Cuomo said in a statement. "Empowering New York’s premier research facilities to select their own innovative avenues for research has great potential for further advancing our understanding of this deadly disease."

Here is the list of grants:

- Health Research, Inc. on behalf of Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, the Trustees of Columbia University in the city of New York each will get $450,000 during a two-year period.

- Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York University School of Medicine and Yeshiva University, on behalf of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, will each receive $300,000 over a two-year period.

- Each of these institutions will receive $75,000 over a 15-month period:
  - The Research Foundation for State University of New York (SUNY) College at Old Westbury
- The Research Foundation of City University of New York on behalf of Hunter College
- University of Rochester
- Narrows Institute for Biomedical Research and Education, Inc., on behalf of the Veterans Administration of New York, Harbor Healthcare System
- Weill Medical College of Cornell University
- The Research Foundation for SUNY at Binghamton University
- Albany Research Institute, Inc. on behalf of Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center
- Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute
- Riverside Research Institute
- The Research Foundation for SUNY on behalf of the University at Albany
- The Research Foundation for SUNY Upstate Medical University
- The Research Foundation of CUNY on behalf of the City College of New York
- The Research Foundation for SUNY on behalf of SUNY Downstate Medical Center
- Fordham University
Queensborough selected for NASA grant program

By Tom Momberg
TimesLedger Newspapers

Queensborough Community College has been selected to receive a $750,000 research grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to administer student training and expand course offerings in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM.

The grant will be disbursed between June 2016 and May 2019.

QCC’s assistant professor of physics and principal investigator of the grant, Dr. M. Chantale Damas, said the City University of New York-NASA Solar and Atmospheric Research Program and Education Partnership would help the school expand its space weather education, which requires an intimate knowledge of every STEM discipline.

“This grant presents a wonderful opportunity to further establish our relationship with NASA and to encourage motivated students and faculty at the community college level to engage in research in solar, geospace and atmospheric physics under the umbrella discipline of space weather,” Damas said in a statement.

Because space weather can have a great impact on ground-based technological systems, QCC said it is a great topic to use as a way of getting more of its students interested in STEM disciplines.

Recognizing that QCC was one of only four community colleges in the country to receive the grant this year, Queensborough President Dr. Diane Call said the grant will expand opportunities for all of the college’s students.

“It clearly demonstrates how Dr. Damas exemplifies the talent and dedication of our faculty in providing students with undergraduate research opportunities unique to potential careers in the STEM fields,” Call said in a statement.

The new curriculum established by the grant will offer STEM students at QCC opportunities for paid year-long undergraduate research, summer internships at NASA and its partner institutions, as well as a seminar series with speakers from NASA for students and faculty.

©2015 Community News Group