



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
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For Immediate Release

COMMUNITY COLLEGES FALL TUITION BILL NEARS \$1.5M
Over 1100 Ulster Students Are Enrolled in Community Colleges Outside of the County

Kingston, New York (April 14, 2016)...A “college chargeback” mandate, which imposes an operational and capital charge on Ulster County when its residents attend a SUNY community college other than Ulster, totaled \$1,494,004 for 1,149 students for Fall of 2015. This expense is in addition to the over \$500,000 per month that the County underwrites for SUNY Ulster.

The Office of the Ulster County Comptroller recently released report entitled *College Chargebacks: A County's Share for its Community* identifying the twenty-seven SUNY and CUNY schools including the number of students in attendance as well as the total cost for each institution. In addition, the report highlights the greatest compensated school, SUNY Dutchess and creates a geographic overview of the hometowns of the 494 students who attended there in the Fall of 2015.

Comptroller Elliott Auerbach has been tracking “college chargebacks” since he first reported on it in November of 2012. “We have a tremendous exodus from Ulster to other schools for a variety of reasons,” Auerbach said. “I believe that geographic proximity, student housing and course offerings are the three factors that find students choosing community colleges other than SUNY Ulster.”

The report demonstrated that Ulster County has paid as much as \$3.5 million per year while receiving, on average \$78,000 back.

The full report can be found at: <http://ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller/college-chargebacks-report-april-2016>