



Congressman Tim Bishop

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CONGRESSMAN BISHOP GOES BACK TO SCHOOL; *UNVEILS BILL TO IMPROVE HIGHER ED, HELP STUDENTS FIND JOBS*

Southampton, NY—Congressman Tim Bishop returned to Southampton College on Thursday to announce the introduction of the College and Job Opportunities for the Future Act. Prior to entering the House, Bishop served as Provost of Southampton College for 16 years. Bishop's bill helps students pay for college while receiving job training and work experience needed to be competitive in a tight job market.

Bishop highlighted the successful Cooperative Education program at Southampton College, which he helped to develop, where 80 percent of the students who enter the program have received job offers from the companies they worked with. Cooperative Education programs help make college more affordable by placing students in paying jobs where they learn valuable skills; participating students often receive job offers from the companies which employ them as undergraduates.

“Cooperative education is an opportunity for students to try on careers, to develop a resume and earn some money to pay for their education,” Bishop said. “

Bishop was joined by several of the successful students from Southampton's program including recent graduate Adele Billups. Her program was with Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, where she now works.

“If you're with somebody and they know you and they know your performance, then they're already confident that you can do the job, because they've seen it,” Billups said.

Bishop's legislation would cost \$30 million for the first year to help establish similar programs across the country. While the bill helps establish these programs, the companies pay the students' salaries.

“This is a way of leveraging a relatively modest amount of federal money to provide access to a significant amount of private money to help students,” Bishop said.

The College and Job Opportunities for the Future Act currently has 28 co-sponsors. Bishop is a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, which will consider the bill.

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