



## **Nonprofit Bottom Line applauds Governor Cuomo's attention to college affordability**

*Bottom Line–New York is a leader in helping low-income students get in to college, graduate, and go far in life with manageable student loan debt and a burgeoning career.*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York – January 6, 2017 – Bottom Line–New York, a nonprofit whose mission is helping low-income, first-generation students get into college, graduate from college and go far in life, understands the importance of Governor Cuomo's proposed legislation to offer free tuition to eligible students—which would include all of their students, who are from households with average incomes of \$22,000 per year.

The second regional site for national nonprofit Bottom Line, the New York office was opened in downtown Brooklyn in 2011 with the goal of helping thousands of the city's most underserved students go far in life.

Says Executive Director Ruth Genn, *“When one of our students graduates from college with quality career prospects and manageable student loan debt, it has a ripple effect on the whole community. We are helping to break the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that low-income, first-generation college students are able to graduate without crippling tuition debt is a core part of Bottom Line's mission.”*

Bottom Line's counselors serve students from all five boroughs, including students at 21 colleges across the state. Since arriving in New York, Bottom Line has helped over 1,750 low-income, first-generation students get into college, and worked with nearly 1,800 college students on their path to a college degree.

Ginette Saimprevil, Managing Director of Programs and Bottom Line graduate, stated, *“Governor Cuomo's plan is a great step to get more New York students into college. The average household income for a Bottom Line student is just \$22,000, and one of the four key areas that we have identified as being likely to cause students to dropout is college affordability. Bottom Line provides our students with highly personalized and professional support through graduation to help them make strong financial choices.”*

Bottom Line's DEAL model addresses the four key areas that are most likely to cause college drop-out: Degree, Employability, Aid, and Life. Bottom Line's counselors help students get into college through its Access program, graduate with a college degree through its Success program, and go far in life with the tools and resources to launch their career through its Career program.

Michelle Easton, Access Program Director, adds, *“At Bottom Line, we spend time getting to know each student's unique background so that we can help them build a solid list of schools to which to apply. Then we spend time making sure that the student has taken into account all the factors that will set them up for success in college—financial aid, social fit, academic rigor, distance from home, etc.—to help them make an informed decision on where to attend.”*

Nationally, in 2015–2016, Bottom Line's largest group of students, 1,289 in total, entered its college Success program and 334 students graduated from college. Bottom Line provided college advising and coaching to almost 5,000 students. 79% of Bottom Line' students graduated from college—a rate more than four times the national average of low-income, first-generation students.

### **Fast Facts about Bottom Line–New York Students**

82% of Success (in college) and 74% of Access (applying to college) students go to SUNY or CUNY  
90% of Bottom Line–New York students chose a college that is considered “more affordable” (less than \$8,500 for the first year before loans)

100% of Bottom Line–New York Access students apply for Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and Pell grants

43% of Bottom Line’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) eligible students enroll in Opportunity Programs, which provide increased, and often times full, financial support to students

Bottom Line–New York serves all 5 boroughs

Counselors are on 21 college campuses across the state of New York

Since 2011, Bottom Line–New York has helped more than 1,750 low-income, first-generation students get into college, and worked with nearly 1,800 college students on their path to a college degree.

### **About Bottom Line**

Bottom Line was founded in 1997 as a small nonprofit organization supporting 25 high school seniors in Boston. The organization has grown dramatically over the last 20 years and now serves 6,200 students across Massachusetts, New York, and Chicago. Despite this dramatic growth, our vision remains to transform urban communities by producing thousands of career-ready college graduates who are breaking the cycle of poverty. Our trained counselors deliver one-on-one, high-touch advising for up to 7 years through college graduation. Bottom Line’s historical college graduation rate is 79% which is up to four times better than the national average for low-income, first generation college students. Learn more at [www.bottomline.org](http://www.bottomline.org).

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