

ABSTRACT: New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) is a private higher education institution with undergraduate programs in Old Westbury, New York and New York City, New York. Founded in 1955, NYIT pursues its mission to provide career-oriented professional education, give all qualified students access to educational opportunity, and support research and scholarship that benefit the larger world. In Fall 2021, NYIT enrolled 3,414 undergraduate students, of which 88% were enrolled full-time. Among undergraduate students, 24% identified as Asian, 11% as Black/African American, 21% as Hispanic, 23% as White, and 4% as Two or More Races; the male-female ratio was 59% to 41%. Among first-time, full-time freshmen, 99% received financial aid, 49% received Pell grants, and 87% did not live in campus housing.

NYIT's proposed project—**Pathways for Advancing and Thriving in Higher Education (PATH)**—will use evidence-based strategies to supplement and enhance NYIT's existing advising and student success infrastructure for second and third-year underserved students. This will include students who are Pell-eligible, low-income, first generation, and/or identify as students of color. The project team set three objectives: (1) increase second to third-year persistence/retention by 5%, (2) increase the third to fourth-year persistence/retention by 5%, and (3) increase the four-year graduation rate by 5%. NYIT is confident that with PATH's implementation, which includes holistic coaching, tutoring, community-building activities and incentivized, enhanced student support, these objectives are achievable. PATH will be evaluated in a randomized controlled trial that meets What Works Clearinghouse standards without reservations, examining the efficacy of the identified strategies at a four-year, private, polytechnic university. Proposed under Absolute Priority 1 – Early Phase, this project demonstrates a rationale for improving student retention and completion and addresses the Competitive Preference Priority.