TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati

SUBJECT: Explore Options to Establish a Computer Science
                              Teaching Certificate

DATE: March 23, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Representatives from Hunter College will present a model for the establishment of a new teaching certificate title in Computer Science.

Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Higher Education Committee for discussion at the April 2017 Regents meeting.

Background Information

During the 2016 State of the Union Address, then-President Barack Obama stated that "in the new economy, computer science isn't an option skill -- it's a basic skill, right along with the three R's." In response, New York City has outlined an ambitious plan that will give every student the chance to study computer science in their school.

Currently, many students are not exposed to the skills that prepare them for more advanced computer science study in college and eventual jobs in the sector. In addition, many teachers have not been prepared to provide the range of curricular offerings with a depth of knowledge in this field of study.

The model being presented provides various pathways to obtain a computer science certificate. One pathway is through a traditional college program, a second pathway is for individuals who already hold a teaching certificate, and a third is for individuals who have demonstrated experience in the field of computer science.

The Department will work with Hunter College and a broader range of higher education and P-12 stakeholders to review this model and obtain additional input and recommendations regarding the creation of a computer science certification.