The mission of the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA), which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2009, is to provide support services to 600 students, including participants in the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) and the Early Connection Opportunity (ECO) program, by creating an environment that ensures the achievement of their academic, personal, and career goals. To support this mission, OMSA provides counseling, disseminates information, initiates programs, and serves as a liaison with other departments and divisions of the University.

Since 1969, the College and the New York State Education Department have jointly sponsored HEOP to help students with low socioeconomic and educational status from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to succeed. The program currently serves 113 students and achieved a 2009 five-year HEOP graduation rate of 90 percent.

OMSA also manages the ECO program, a four-week, tuition-free academic and residential prefreshman summer enrichment program that assists students in the transition from high school to college. More than 200 students currently enrolled have transitioned effectively into the University community, a process that is crucial for academic success.

OMSA proactively supports the University’s efforts to build diversity awareness by promoting an inclusive community for students, faculty, and staff. OMSA celebrates diversity and its students with numerous events, initiatives, and programs such as Enrichment and Enhancement Studios, Freshman Welcome Reception, Academic Achievement Reception, Emerging Leaders Program, the OMSA Chronicle and Abstract, and the Senior Dinner Commencement Celebration. Through these initiatives and more, as well as numerous co-sponsorships and collaborations with student groups and University departments, OMSA prides itself on supporting and retaining students as they navigate their undergraduate careers.