STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island high school seniors with an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are being urged to apply for a new New York State scholarship program to encourage college study in those areas.

The new STEM Incentive program, created as part of the 2014-2015 state budget, encourages high school students who graduate at the top of their classes to pursue high-demand, high-tech careers through full tuition scholarships to either the State University of New York (SUNY) or the City University of New York (CUNY).

The scholarships are available to students who graduate in the top 10-percent of their class, at every New York high school, and who enroll full-time in a SUNY or CUNY school in September and major in a STEM field. Scholarship winners must agree to work at a STEM job in New York State for five years after they receive their degree.

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn), who voted for the incentive, applauds the program.

"Our children are our most valuable resource, and promoting their education is one of our most critical efforts as legislators. By encouraging our best and brightest to pursue high-demand careers and keep their talents here in New York, we are creating a workforce over which the world's top companies will be salivating," she said.
but do not have the means.

"I was proud to support the program in this year's budget and I encourage all our local high school help students to succeed in the program," said Ms. Malliotakis.

Award details and applications are available at the New York State Higher Education Services (HESC) website at HESC.ny.gov. The deadline for applications is August 15.