

# **HISTORY OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM IN NEW YORK STATE**

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This research explores the historical context of the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). I have investigated the need for HEOP through a national history and placed it in a historical context. From the national perspective, the roots of HEOP can be connected with the famous civil rights case, *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. The program is then traced to the actions of President Lyndon B. Johnson in relation to his decisions based on “The Great Society” and then to the Poor People’s Movement. The paper then shifts its focus to the creation of the program at a government level. After following HEOP through legislation, the paper moves on to explore the purpose of the program and how it goes about fulfilling its purpose. Following the program’s purpose and ways of fulfilling it the paper then moves into a discussion and deconstruction of common stereotypes of HEOP.