

# Community College Month 2020

To: Community College Presidents  
Board of Trustee Chairs

We are asking all 18 Community Colleges to consider declaring April as Community College month, as designated by the Association of Community Colleges Trustees by passing a resolution approved by your College Board of Trustees.

## **Background:**

In 1985, in recognition of the important contributions of community and technical colleges to our total educational system, Congress authorized and requested then President Ronald Reagan to issue Proclamation 5418 establishing a National Community College Month. A month has been designated each year since then to celebrate community colleges

## **Process:**

Attached is a sample resolution passed by Warren County Community College last year and passed by the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders to celebrate the month. The resolution, as you can see, included the many awards, involvement, and recognition of the college in the county, state and nation. This is a great way for your college to receive good press and recognition. The resolution can also be sent to your local municipalities and County Freeholder Boards to be passed by their governing bodies.

We, at NJCCC, are working with the Assembly, Senate, and Governor's office for them to declare April, Community College Month

## **Some suggestions for implementation:**

- Pass a resolution at your March or April Board of Trustee meeting
- Send the resolution to your governing bodies/Freeholders and local municipalities to pass at their meeting (Sample Letter to Governing bodies attached) Arrange for a representation of students or staff of your college to attend the meeting if possible.
- Host a community college "Open House" Week during April and invite all federal, state, county and elected officials representing your county college to visit the college.

Let's make the month of April, a showcase month for our community college sector.

Sincerely,

Aaron Fichthner, Ph.D.  
President  
NJCCC

Phil Linfante, Ph.D.  
Chair  
NJCCC

# Community College Month 2020

Honorable (Governing Board):

Attached is a resolution declaring April as (Your College Name) Month, as designated by the Association of Community College Trustees and supported by the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges.

Statewide, eighteen community colleges representing the twenty-one counties enroll 350,000 students a year, granting 24,000 degrees annually. Forty five percent of all students earning bachelor's degrees in New Jersey completed courses at Community Colleges during their academic career. Community Colleges work as the educational and economic engine in our counties and offer educational experiences to many residents. These include degrees, certificates, short term training, business and industry courses and training, youth programs, courses for senior citizens and much more.

We hope that you would consider placing this resolution on your agenda in March or April. Please contact (Contact Person/Phone#). For additional information and to inform us of the meeting date that the resolution will be passed.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President (Community College)

Chair (Board of Trustees)

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2019 AS  
WARREN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the more than thirteen hundred community and technical colleges, public and private, in the United States have contributed enormously to the richness and accessibility of American higher education, nearly half of all undergraduate college students in the Nation today are enrolled in community colleges; and

**WHEREAS**, by providing educational opportunities at costs and locations accessible to all who are qualified, community and technical colleges have greatly enhanced the opportunity for every ambitious student, young or old, to enter a postsecondary school program. As community-based institutions, our schools provide varied programs and offer specialized training for more than one thousand occupations; and

**WHEREAS**, this community is served well by Warren County Community College, and as Warren County Community College has been recognized by Middle States for its exceptional report and process during the March 2018 Self-Study; and

**WHEREAS**, Warren County Community College because of its successful reform agenda, by implementing meaningful educational change, it has reached a 45% graduation rate, highest in New Jersey as well as record retention rates, while simultaneously continuing to reduce remediation; and

**WHEREAS**, Warren County Community College was the only community college deemed uniquely qualified in Northwest New Jersey, to provide free tuition to all households earning under \$45,000 per year, Through the Governor's Community College Opportunity Grants (CCOG); and

**WHEREAS**, in Spring 2019, Warren County Community College is the only college in the Northeastern United States to implement Cengage Unlimited where all online learning materials are at a flat rate of \$140 annually; and, the option to receive each print book at a flat rate of \$7.99. This is estimated to save students at least \$1,200 annually in book expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017-2018, a robust dual enrollment program with all six Warren County high schools participating, 1,947 high school students (equivalent to 51% of the entire Warren County public high school population) successfully completed at least one dual enrollment course, saving the Warren County taxpayers an equivalent of \$1.8 million in tuition and fee expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, Warren County Community College is a leader in public service relationships. It currently administers Continuing Education programs, at our Phillipsburg satellite location, with a strong history of collaborating with our county human services offices, even facilitating and authoring a strategic plan for all countywide human services; and

**WHEREAS**, Warren County Community College trustees and staff serve the global higher education community on statewide, national, and international boards including, but not limited to: NJCCC Trustee State Chair, AACC Board of Directors, AACC structured pathways Commission Chair, the AAUA Board of Directors, the Chair Academy International Advisory Board, and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Board; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the important contribution of community and technical colleges to our total educational system, in 1985 the Congress authorized and requested then President Ronald Reagan to issue Proclamation 5418 establishing a National Community College Month.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved we, the Warren County Community College Board of Trustees recognize April 2019 as **Warren County Community College Month**

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**Dr. Phil Linfante, WCCC Board Chair**



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, New Jersey's strong network of 29 comprehensive, open door community colleges fully respond to the educational, cultural, and community needs of their respective counties; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's comprehensive community colleges prepare students to enter four-year institutions, prepare them to assume skilled positions in New Jersey's workforce, and offer many other programs that enrich the quality of life for the state's residents; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's community colleges are a critical nexus in the state's education system. The colleges have strong partnerships with the K-12 sector, providing dual enrollment programs to nearly tens of thousands of students annually to ensure that students are prepared for post-secondary education and are on a pathway to further education; and

WHEREAS, the community colleges also have strong partnerships and articulation agreements with New Jersey's public and private four-year colleges and universities, playing a critical role in baccalaureate degree attainment for students in this state; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Student Clearinghouse, 45 percent of all students who earned a bachelor's degree from a New Jersey college or university had previously completed courses at a community college and students who complete their first two years at a New Jersey community college before transferring to a four-year school save \$21,000 in tuition - the most in the country; and

WHEREAS, community colleges play a critical role in meeting the workforce needs of New Jersey's businesses featuring a wide array of innovative collaborations with businesses and other partners that help companies upgrade the skills of their employees, provide training to unemployed and underemployed individuals, and address skills gaps across the state; and

WHEREAS, the state's 29 community colleges function as a network of institutions working collaboratively through the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, a non-profit organization enshrined in state law that works to support and strengthen the state's community colleges; and

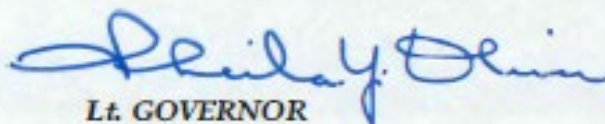
WHEREAS, New Jersey's community colleges play a significant role in increasing the number of individuals in New Jersey who have earned a post-secondary industry-valued credential or degree and play a critical role in helping the state to meet the goal of 65 percent of the adult population having earned an industry-valued post-secondary credential or degree by 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby recognize:

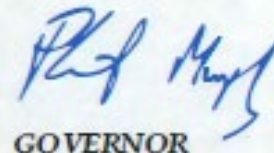
### APRIL 2019 AS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

in New Jersey.



  
Lt. GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirtieth day of April in the year two thousand nineteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.

  
GOVERNOR

# State of New Jersey



THE SENATE  
STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

## SENATE RESOLUTION By Senate President SWEENEY

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of New Jersey is pleased to honor and salute the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges, a highly esteemed organization in the Garden State, in recognition of April of 2019 as New Jersey Community College Month; and,

**WHEREAS**, Community College Month is an appropriate time to acknowledge community colleges and the important contributions they make to the richness and accessibility of American higher education; and,

**WHEREAS**, The leaders and staff of the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges are fully devoted to the praiseworthy mission of providing statewide leadership in support of the advancement of New Jersey's nineteen community colleges; and,

**WHEREAS**, In addition, the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges performs sector coordinating responsibilities as required by law and facilitates efforts to improve student success; and,

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's outstanding community colleges enroll 350,000 students and grant 24,000 degrees each year, and forty-five percent of students who earn bachelor's degrees in New Jersey have completed courses at a community college; and,

**WHEREAS**, Students of all ages and backgrounds who attend these exceptional schools receive a superb education and earn degrees, certificates, and training that help them become skilled members of a workforce that propels economic growth and encourages learning and culture; and,

**WHEREAS**, The strength and success of the State of New Jersey, the vitality of its communities, and the effectiveness of our American society depend, in great measure, upon excellent organizations, exemplified by the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges; and,

**WHEREAS**, It is altogether proper and fitting for this House to pause in its deliberations and recognize the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges, and to affirm its importance to the citizens of this State; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

That this House hereby commends the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges, pays tribute to the meritorious efforts of its leaders and staff, and extends sincere best wishes for its continued success and vigor; and,

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary, be transmitted to the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges.



*Stephen M. Sweeney*  
Stephen M. Sweeney  
President of the Senate

Attest:

*Linda Metzger*  
Linda Metzger  
Secretary of the Senate