



Faculty Council of Community Colleges Resolution: EXCOM1-24/25
Resolution Calling for Equitable Funding for Community Colleges in New York State
Passed Unanimously on October 19, 2024

WHEREAS the Faculty Council of Community Colleges recognizes New York State's need for fiscal responsibility, but also understands the unique position of SUNY's thirty community colleges to address the increasing needs of both recent high school graduates and adult learners seeking to enhance their academic skills and employment opportunities, the need of the region's business community for qualified employees, the need to create the work force required to catalyze new industry and economic prosperity, and the need for an educated citizenry; and

WHEREAS SUNY's thirty community colleges, through their rigorous Liberal Arts and transfer programs, educate approximately 50% of the transfers to SUNY state-operated colleges and University Centers, at less than the per student cost of those institutions, fulfilling the community colleges' mission to serve as local points of access to higher education as well as to the workforce; and

WHEREAS 35% of community college students are Pell-eligible, compared to 25% of university students, 18% of community college students are economically disadvantaged, compared to 6% of university students, and 34% of community college students are underrepresented minorities, compared with 23% of university students, but community college students provide 33% of the funding per FTE, while university students provide 24% of funding per FTE, all of which place an inequitable undue financial burden on community college students; and

WHEREAS community colleges still lag far behind in state funding compared to state-operated campuses, hindering the ability to provide an equal education to all students, regardless of economic status; and

WHEREAS while the FCCC and local campuses appreciate the budget increase allocated to the community college sector in 2024 - 2025, said increase has only permitted marginal improvements in student education; and

WHEREAS the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) and the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) have both publicly called on New York State legislators to provide equitable funding for New York's community college students; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the FCCC calls for a more equitable funding model for NY's community college students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FCCC recognizes that equitable funding is key to equity, economic growth, and social mobility for community college students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FCCC joins NYCCAP and NYCCT in calling on New York State legislators to commit to the following increases in the 2025-2026 State Budget:

- \$30M to cover contractual cost increases for existing faculty and staff; and
- \$10M to address issues with student success services, which are vital programs that lead to retention and improved student outcomes; and
- \$30M to cover operating losses of high-need programs, such as nursing and advanced manufacturing; and
- \$30M to invest in scaling high-need programs that align with the Governor's goals such as nursing and advanced manufacturing to meet the needs of New York State.