



**FCCC**  
Faculty Council  
of Community Colleges

## **2026/2027 State Budget Advocacy Resolution**

*Passed unanimously (24-0-0) December 11, 2025*

**WHEREAS** on February 7-9, 2025 the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC), the SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) and the CUNY UFS jointly co-sponsored a national conference, held in Albany, NY, titled Public Good U: Strengthening the Case for Public Higher Education, where elected officials, faculty, staff, administrators, and students from throughout the nation and New York State all advocated for the economic and societal value of higher education and the importance of its funding; and

**WHEREAS** the FCCC expresses its sincere gratitude to Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature for the creation of the SUNY Reconnect initiative, allowing adults between the ages of 25 and 55 who have not completed a college degree to return to community colleges to earn an Associate's degree in select high demand fields, free from the expenses of tuition, fees, books, and other supplies; and

**WHEREAS** the FCCC expresses thanks to Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature for maintaining the "funding floor" regarding community college funding in recent years, which allows community colleges to predictably better manage their limited annual budgets in the face of ever-increasing expenses, and without which might cause some community colleges to question their survival; and

**WHEREAS** the community college funding floor has not been adjusted for inflation, and the average inflation rate from 2021 through 2024 is 4.94%; and

**WHEREAS** the FCCC thanks Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature for their investments in recent years for workforce development initiatives, and other additions to operating aid, at community colleges, as every little bit helps campuses with tight budgets; and

**WHEREAS** statistics published<sup>1</sup>, in 2024, by the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) showed that approximately 45% of all SUNY students attend community colleges, but State funding per full-time equivalent (FTE) student was \$22,000 per FTE at SUNY's four-year institutions, while only \$3,900 per FTE at SUNY's community colleges, a gap that is not even remotely made up by local County sponsorships of \$4,800 per FTE at each community college; and

**WHEREAS** all community colleges, by statute, cannot run chronic deficits to the point of expending their entire reserve fund balances, meaning that they annually must be superior and reliable stewards and guardians of all tax dollars entrusted to them and therefore are always among the best investments for public monies<sup>2</sup>;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the FCCC respectfully asks Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to increase their baseline funding for community colleges, at least in line with inflation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the FCCC respectfully requests Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to expand the SUNY Reconnect to include additional degree programs, allowing even more New Yorkers to benefit from the initiative and assist in filling the workforce needs in more fields across the State, direct-to-student money for the support of basic needs, and support for additional necessary pre-requisite coursework for programs such as nursing; and

**BE IT LASTLY RESOLVED** that the FCCC respectfully requests Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to close the funding gap between students attending SUNY's four-year and community college institutions, allowing all students to receive equitable educational experience throughout all of SUNY's great institutions of higher education.

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/admin/structure/media/manage/filefile/a/2024-02/ny-community-college-trustees-24.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>

[https://irp.cdn-website.com/0360755d/files/uploaded/SUNY\\_AGG\\_FY23\\_EIS\\_MainReport\\_Final\\_%28%29\\_%281%29.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/0360755d/files/uploaded/SUNY_AGG_FY23_EIS_MainReport_Final_%28%29_%281%29.pdf)