## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 94

Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, ROBINSON, KEARNEY, CAPPELLETTI, SCHWANK, STREET, LAUGHLIN, COSTA, L. WILLIAMS, COLLETT, COMITTA, HAYWOOD, ARGALL, KANE, MARTIN, SANTARSIERO, SAVAL, BREWSTER, DUSH, HUTCHINSON, MILLER, LANGERHOLC, CULVER AND J. WARD, MAY 1, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MAY 1, 2023

## A RESOLUTION

- Designating the month of April 2023 as "Community College Month" in Pennsylvania.
- 3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania ranks 48th in the nation for the
- 4 affordability of higher education; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Community colleges play a critical role in providing
- 6 Pennsylvanians with an affordable and quality higher education;
- 7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, Community colleges are the largest provider of
- 9 higher education in this Commonwealth, serving more than 230,000
- 10 students; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Many of the students attending community colleges
- 12 come from low-income families; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Forty-two percent of community college students come
- 14 from underrepresented or minority groups; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Community colleges educate the largest amount of
- 16 first-generation or nontraditional students in higher education;

- 1 and
- 2 WHEREAS, Community colleges can save students tens of
- 3 thousands of dollars on the completion of a four-year degree;
- 4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, These savings and the affordability of community
- 6 colleges provide students with access to higher education and
- 7 enhanced economic opportunities; and
- 8 WHEREAS, For some students, these economic opportunities come
- 9 through the many career-focused degrees and programs offered by
- 10 community colleges; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Community colleges serve as the largest
- 12 postsecondary trainer in Pennsylvania, providing workforce
- 13 development training and degrees; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Community colleges provide workforce training for
- 15 87,000 individuals located throughout this Commonwealth; and
- 16 WHEREAS, More than 70% of community college workforce
- 17 development and training programs are aligned with high-priority
- 18 occupations, as defined by the Department of Labor and Industry,
- 19 such as nursing, manufacturing and public safety; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Community colleges partner with 2,100 employers to
- 21 train Pennsylvanians for family-sustaining careers; and
- 22 WHEREAS, These partnerships and programs provide employers
- 23 with highly qualified workers for high-demand occupations that
- 24 meet regional and State economic needs in this Commonwealth;
- 25 therefore be it
- 26 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2023
- 27 as "Community College Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further
- 28 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize community colleges'
- 29 important role in Pennsylvania's education system and economy.