

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative MaryLouise Isaacson and Representative Zachary Mako

Date: April 17, 2023

Subject: Declaring April 2023 as Community College Month in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania currently ranks 48th in the nation for the affordability of higher education. Because of this, community colleges play a large role in providing over 230,000 Pennsylvanians with a quality and affordable education. By saving students tens of thousands of dollars on the completion of a four-year degree, community colleges' career focused programs offer economic opportunities to underrepresented populations, as well as residents that face socioeconomic barriers.

Community colleges in Pennsylvania also offer workforce and training programs, many which are aligned with high-priority occupations such as nursing, manufacturing, and public safety. By partnering with thousands of employers within the Commonwealth, as well as investing over \$9 million into workforce development, community colleges help to meet regional and state economic needs by training and connecting skilled workers to sustainable employment.

This resolution acknowledges the large part community colleges play in lifting our residents up, by providing them access to higher education as well as enhancing economic opportunities that can last a lifetime. The future of Pennsylvania is its people, and community colleges play a critical role in providing Pennsylvanians with education, training, and the opportunities needed for success.

Please join us in sponsoring this resolution to celebrate these important institutions.