

**Urging The Governor Of The State Of New York And The New York State Legislature To Restore State Aid To Community Colleges At The Levels Required By New York State Education Law**

Referred to: The Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee (Chairman Harris and Legislators Donaldson, Gregorius, Lopez, and Wawro) and the Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Harris, Maio, Maloney, Gregorius, Provenzano, and Rodriguez)

Chairman of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee, Wayne Harris, Deputy Chairman David B. Donaldson, and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Richard A. Gerentine, offer the following:

WHEREAS, New York State Education Law Article 26 provides the methodology for funding community colleges under the State University of New York; and

WHEREAS, State Education Law provides for funding through state aid, a county sponsor contribution and student tuition and fees; and

WHEREAS, State Education Law stipulates that state aid should equal one-third of community college operating costs; and

WHEREAS, over the course of time, the State of New York, has substantially reduced the amount of state aid it contributes to the operations costs of the community colleges, thus shifting the burden of financing higher education to the host counties and students; and

WHEREAS, in State fiscal year 2007-08 the State budget support student base aid for SUNY and CUNY community colleges per full time student was \$2,675, while the State fiscal year 2012-13 state budget included final base operating aid funding for community colleges at \$2,272 per full time student, representing a 15 percent reduction from prior year state aid levels, not accounting for inflationary costs pressures since; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in state aid perpetuates New York State's actions of imposing increasingly more costly funded mandates on county taxpayers and students in a manner that is inconsistent with State Education Law; now, therefore be it

**Resolution No. 248      October 16, 2012**

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RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature hereby urges the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Legislature to restore Community College State base operating aid to the levels envisioned under New York State Education Law in order to maintain academic excellence and affordability at our community colleges; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that individual copies of this resolution be conveyed to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William Larkin, Assembly Majority Leader Sheldon Silver, Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank Skartados, the Chancellor of the State University of New York, the Ulster County Community College Office, and the New York State Association of Counties so that they may be apprised hereof and take all necessary and appropriate action to effectuate the purpose of this resolution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Clerks of all other county legislatures throughout New York State, and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE

AYES: 22      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Belfiglio)

Passed Committee: Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services on October 2, 2012

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on October 9, 2012

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 16th day of October, 2012, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of October in the year Two Thousand and Twelve.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature