

1 **2023 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Calling on the Governor and Legislature to Support Community**
6 **Colleges and Urging them to Develop an Equitable County Chargeback**
7 **Formula**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, under state law, funding for community colleges is to be provided through
10 state aid, a county sponsor contribution, and student tuition and fees; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the establishment and continued operation of a statewide community
13 college system was based on an ongoing state aid funding commitment of at least one-
14 third, and up to 40 percent, of community college operating costs; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the state funding amount has declined over the years and is now below
17 their historic one-third commitment, and far short of 40 percent; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, this year the Executive State Budget proposes to maintain a funding floor
20 for community colleges at 100 percent of prior year funding, up from the 98 percent
21 floor enacted in FY 2022; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, without this funding floor, community colleges would face a \$138 million
24 (22 percent) loss in formula aid due to enrollment declines; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, the Governor’s proposal is contingent to the following language: “...
27 provided further that up to 20 percent of the amount of aid authorized pursuant to this
28 appropriation shall be payable subject to a plan developed by the State University of
29 New York and approved by the director of the budget with actions necessary for
30 community colleges to undertake in order to operate without reliance on the base aid
31 funding floor in future years;” and

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33 **WHEREAS**, if the Governor’s proposed budget and proposal to hold back needed
34 operating funds remains unchanged, our community colleges will lose millions of
35 dollars in base State Aid, as well as even more funding if 20 percent of the aid was held
36 for a period of time or indefinitely; and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, many community colleges are at a crossroads because they are facing a
39 decade of declining enrollment due to overall state population loss and a dramatic
40 decline in K-12 students, more competition from 4-year schools due to special tuition
41 aid provided by the state, forcing them to ask county sponsors and students to pay more,
42 with county chargebacks rising at an unsustainable pace.

43
44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
45 Counties (NYSAC) applauds the Governor for proposing to implement a funding floor
46 for community colleges; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC does not support the governor’s budget
2 language that allows the state to defer passing through 20 percent of the base funding
3 until SUNY and the Division of Budget develop plans that require community colleges to
4 find ways to maintain operations without the 100 percent spending floor in future years
5 as it could severely undermine current year operations; and
6

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, SUNY should continue to work closely with
8 community colleges to develop innovative solutions to attract and support students
9 during these challenging times, such as providing cybersecurity curriculum, cannabis
10 management, and specific regional industry workforce development; and
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12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the State University of New York
13 (SUNY) to develop a more equitable funding methodology for community college
14 chargebacks for counties sending residents to colleges outside of their border; and
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16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
17 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
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19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
20 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed
21 necessary and proper.