

1 **NYSAC 2021 Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution Urging the Governor and Legislature to Increase Support for**
5 **Community Colleges**

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

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

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

13 **WHEREAS**, for the second year in a row, the Executive State Budget proposes to
14 reduce community college aid, this year by \$11 million; and

15 **WHEREAS**, last year the state budget reduced community college base aid by \$22.7
16 million; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the global pandemic has significantly impacted all institutions of higher
18 learning, and many have lost students because of the shutdown of the traditional
19 learning environment; and

20 **WHEREAS**, many community colleges are depending on their county sponsors and/or
21 students to pay more this academic year.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
23 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the State Legislature to reject the Governor's proposed
24 reduction in community college funding and revert to the base level funding provided by
25 the state as enacted in the SFY 21 Budget; and

26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the State University of New
27 York (SUNY) to work closely with community colleges to develop innovative solutions
28 to strengthen the community college system to attract and support students during
29 these changing social, educational, and economic times; and

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
31 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
33 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed
34 necessary and proper.