

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 331 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FOLMER, RAFFERTY, WASHINGTON, STACK,  
TEPLITZ, ERICKSON, VOGEL, GREENLEAF, FERLO, FONTANA, KASUNIC,  
GORDNER, HUGHES, SCHWANK, BROWNE, BREWSTER, VULAKOVICH,  
ARGALL, SMITH, MENSCH, WHITE, YUDICHAK, COSTA AND BAKER,  
APRIL 1, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 1, 2014

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 2014 as "Pennsylvania Community College Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, For 51 years, this Commonwealth's community colleges  
4 have provided accessible and affordable higher education, work  
5 force training and transfer opportunities for millions of  
6 Pennsylvania residents; and

7 WHEREAS, In the current year, the community colleges serve  
8 more than 365,000 students across 37 of this State's counties,  
9 and 93% of credit students are residents, representing all  
10 counties of this Commonwealth.

11 WHEREAS, One out of every four undergraduates of this  
12 Commonwealth attends a community college; and

13 WHEREAS, Community colleges offer and support dual enrollment  
14 of more than 11,000 high school students, representing half of  
15 this Commonwealth's school districts; and

16 WHEREAS, Community colleges serve nontraditional students,

1 part-time students, dislocated workers and veterans in this  
2 Commonwealth and offer increased access through online education  
3 courses and programs, allowing students to build their academic  
4 credentials and certifications while maintaining their work  
5 schedules and family responsibilities; and

6 WHEREAS, Community colleges offer the most affordable pathway  
7 to the baccalaureate through more than 2,700 transfer and  
8 articulation agreements to ensure students seamlessly transition  
9 from the community college to a four-year degree, with more than  
10 32,800 students transferring each year; and

11 WHEREAS, Ninety-one percent of community college graduates  
12 stay in Pennsylvania to live and work; and

13 WHEREAS, Community colleges continue to graduate students in  
14 many of the high-demand and high-growth industries vital to the  
15 State's economy, particularly in health care, public safety,  
16 manufacturing and energy; and

17 WHEREAS, Sixty-one percent of those credit programs are in  
18 the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields; and

19 WHEREAS, Community colleges offer individualized credit and  
20 noncredit courses and programs that enhance the work force  
21 pipeline and stimulate this Commonwealth's economy; and

22 WHEREAS, Community colleges have developed 74 new or  
23 redesigned programs in response to regional needs of employers  
24 and work force trends; and

25 WHEREAS, More than 1,100 employers throughout this  
26 Commonwealth have contracted with community colleges to provide  
27 training for more employees, and 30,200 employees have been  
28 trained by community colleges throughout Pennsylvania; therefore  
29 be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2014

1 as "Pennsylvania Community College Month" in Pennsylvania and  
2 encourage all citizens to recognize, appreciate and support the  
3 contributions these institutions make to their communities and  
4 our Commonwealth.