
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 494 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, ROEBUCK, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL,
GILLEN, HAHN, KAVULICH, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, MURT,
NEILSON, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, READSHAW, SCHWEYER,
THOMAS, VAZQUEZ AND WARD, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 16 through 20, 2017, as
2 "Community College Completion Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The mission of this Commonwealth's 14 community
4 colleges is to increase the educational attainment level and
5 work force readiness skills of Pennsylvanians to create a
6 productive work force and vibrant economy; and

7 WHEREAS, Community colleges offer the most affordable pathway
8 to bachelor's degrees through more than 2,800 transfer and
9 articulation agreements to ensure that students seamlessly
10 transition from community college to an institution offering a
11 four-year degree, with nearly 34,000 students transferring each
12 year; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 40% of community college students
14 nationwide who transfer to a senior college with an associate's
15 degree successfully complete a bachelor's degree; and

16 WHEREAS, Individuals who successfully complete an associate's

1 degree will earn an average of \$250,000 more than individuals
2 who only complete high school over the course of their careers;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Individuals who successfully complete an associate's
5 degree will earn nearly \$100,000 more than individuals who start
6 but do not complete an associate's degree over the course of
7 their careers; and

8 WHEREAS, Individuals with associate's degrees are less likely
9 to become unemployed than their coworkers who did not earn those
10 credentials; and

11 WHEREAS, In less than five years, 65% of all jobs in the
12 economy will require postsecondary education and training beyond
13 high school, and 30% of those jobs will require some college
14 education or an associate's degree; and

15 WHEREAS, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapters at this
16 Commonwealth's community colleges are encouraging students to
17 complete associate's degrees or certificates before leaving
18 community college to transfer to a four-year school or enter the
19 job market; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
21 week of October 16 through 20, 2017, as "Community College
22 Completion Week" in Pennsylvania, encourage all community
23 college students to complete degrees and urge community college
24 faculty and staff to facilitate completion of student
25 credentials.