

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 27

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

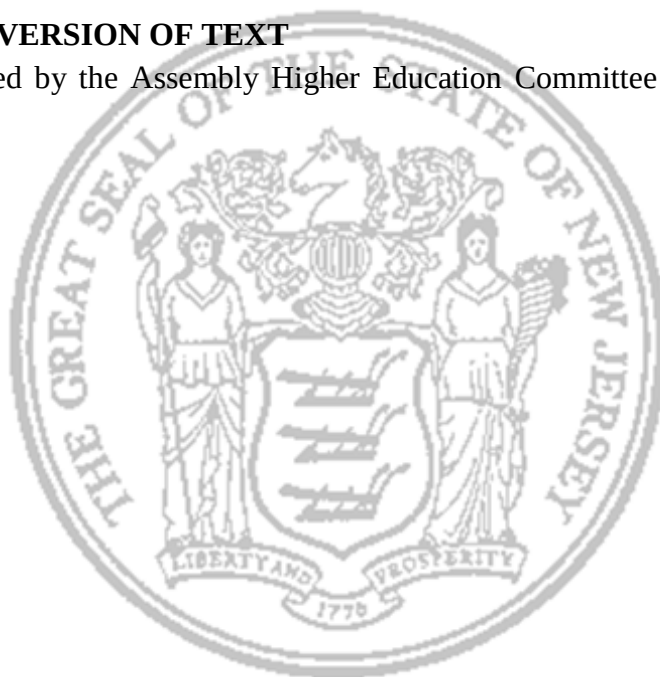
Assemblywoman Carter

SYNOPSIS

Designates April of each year as “County College Month” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April of each year as “County
2 College Month” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, According to the New Jersey Council of County Colleges,
5 New Jersey’s 19 county colleges enroll more than 300,000 students
6 a year at over 70 campuses throughout the State, making county
7 colleges the largest higher education sector in New Jersey; and
8 **WHEREAS**, According to the Office of the Secretary of Higher
9 Education, the average in-district tuition for full-time students
10 attending a county college for the 2018-2019 academic year is
11 \$3,945. The average in-State tuition for a full-time county college
12 student is \$5,898, as compared to the average in-State tuition of
13 \$11,533 for full-time undergraduate students attending a New
14 Jersey senior public institution of higher education; and
15 **WHEREAS**, By providing over 2,000 high-quality transfer programs,
16 occupational programs, continuing education courses, business
17 support services, and community service programs at reasonably
18 low costs, New Jersey’s county colleges continue to meet the ever-
19 changing needs of New Jersey’s students and residents; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Nationally, county colleges serve more than 40 percent of
21 all college students in the United States and contribute \$800 billion
22 to America’s economy, while receiving just one-eighth the amount
23 of appropriations that their four-year counterparts receive; and
24 **WHEREAS**, County colleges serve an increasingly diverse student
25 population and, according to the American Association of
26 Community Colleges, there are more than 12 million students
27 currently enrolled at community colleges across the nation, many of
28 whom are unable to afford the tuition costs at four-year institutions
29 of higher education; and
30 **WHEREAS**, In addition to helping students complete academic degrees,
31 county colleges serve an integral role in workforce development.
32 Through the establishment of career and technical education
33 programs that link rigorous academics, technical knowledge, and
34 real-world experience, county colleges provide clear pathways for
35 students and help to develop a strong pipeline of well-trained
36 employees to meet the critical needs of business and industry; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Recognizing the vital role of county colleges, President
38 Ronald Reagan, on December 6, 1985, issued Proclamation No.
39 5418 proclaiming the month of February 1986 as “National
40 Community College Month”; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Later moved to April, National Community College Month
42 is celebrated at community colleges throughout the nation as a time
43 to recognize and raise awareness of the hard work and achievement
44 happening every day on community college campuses; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Many of the New Jersey’s county colleges, and community
46 colleges throughout the nation, support the month by holding
47 promotional events and developing educational materials designed
48 to highlight the importance of county colleges and the contributions
49 of their faculty, staff, and students; and

- 1 **WHEREAS**, The establishment of a County College Month in New
2 Jersey will serve to improve the understanding of the citizens of the
3 State on the critical role performed by county colleges and the hard
4 work and achievement occurring every day on county college
5 campuses by students, faculty, and staff; now, therefore,
6
7 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
8 *State of New Jersey:*
9
10 1. April of each year is designated as “County College Month”
11 in New Jersey in order to recognize the critical role that county
12 colleges play in the education of the citizens of the State and in
13 fostering and addressing the State’s economic development through
14 its educational and workforce development efforts.
15
16 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
17 proclamation recognizing April as “County College Month” in New
18 Jersey and calling upon schools, county colleges, the citizens of the
19 State, and other interested groups to observe the month with
20 appropriate activities and programs.
21
22 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.