December 16, 2019

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

RE: Supporting Permanent Funding Comm. College Base State Aid Formula FY 2020

Dear Honorable Members:

Attached please find a proposed Erie County Legislative resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting the Erie County Legislature pass a resolution in support of a proposal that New York State change the base State aid formula allocation for each community college to be permanently set at 100% of the previous year or $100 increase per FTE, whichever is greater.

Thank you for considering the attached. If your Honorable Body requires any further information, kindly contact Paula Sandy, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, Erie Community College at 851-1868 or sandy@ecc.edu or our office, and we will be happy to accommodate your request.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/tcc
Enclosure
MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Paula Sandy, Executive Director of Marketing & Communications, SUNY Erie Community College
Re: Request for a Resolution in Support of the Proposed Funding Floor for the base state aid
Date: December 16, 2019

SUMMARY
It is requested that the Erie County Legislature issue a resolution that fully supports the proposal that New York State change the base State aid formula allocation for each community college to be permanently set at 100% of the previous year or $100 increase per FTE, whichever is greater.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
SUNY Erie Community College will realize stability in the allocation of state aid received annually.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION
The proposed change would allow a level of predictability in State funding in order to provide SUNY Erie Community College and community colleges statewide the ability to plan and budget accordingly. The SUNY Erie Community College passed a resolution in support of this funding floor on September 26, 2019.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION
SUNY Erie Community College will not realize a predictable level of funding for state aid on an annual basis, requiring a projection of potential aid and creating the possibility of a shortfall at the end of the College’s budget cycle.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL
Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, President of SUNY Erie Community College, the Chair of the SUNY Erie Community College Board of Trustees.
A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
SUNY ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RE: Resolution Supporting a Permanent Funding Floor for Comm.
College Base State Aid Formula FY 2020

WHEREAS, the SUNY Erie Community College Board of Trustees
approved a resolution at their September 26, 2019 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Erie Community College serves as an
economic engine that provides a trained workforce and educated citizenry
for the State of New York and Erie County; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Erie Community College is an anchor
institution that helps to keep our community strong and vibrant by serving
major employers, community hubs, and social centers; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Erie Community College serves as the
primary catalyst to the middle class by serving more low-income students
than any other sector of higher education in the region; and

WHEREAS, Community colleges statewide serve nearly half of all
undergraduates enrolled in the SUNY System along with nearly as many life-long
learners through noncredit classes; and

WHEREAS, A level of predictability in State funding is essential to
provide SUNY Erie Community College and community colleges statewide the
ability to plan and budget accordingly and recognizes the college's annual fixed
costs; and

WHEREAS, the 98% of the previous year or $100 increase per
FTE, whichever is greater, language added to the community college
funding model for fiscal year 2019 was a step in the right direction and
appreciated; and

WHEREAS, the funding floor should be set in State statute at
100% of the previous year or $100 increase per FTE, whichever is greater;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby approves fully
supports the proposal that New York State change the base state aid formula
allocation for each community college to be permanently set at 100% of the
previous year or $100 increase per FTE, whichever is more; and be it further
RESOLVED, that copies of the resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the President of SUNY Erie Community College, and the Chairman of the SUNY Erie Community College Board of Trustees.