

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION No. 66 OF 2024

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS WILD, DRISCOLL, MERLINO, MADAY, BEAN, ETU AND THOMAS

URGING ACTION BY NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATORS TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF SUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO INCREASE FUNDING TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE STATE BUDGET

WHEREAS, SUNY's community colleges serve the largest percentage of low income, historically marginalized populations, and working adults of all SUNY sectors, and

WHEREAS, the state's direct tax support for SUNY's community colleges is lower than it was a decade ago, has not increased in three years, and has fallen behind the New York State counties' direct tax support to community colleges by \$97 million, and

WHEREAS, the community college sector trustees and presidents and SUNY Adirondack have advocated for New York State to meet its obligation to equally share its support of the community colleges with the counties, and

WHEREAS, increasing base operating aid by \$97 million will bring the state's share of direct state tax support for operating aid equal to that of New York's counties and support training 20,000 New Yorkers in high demand jobs through the Empire State Community College Workforce Guarantee, and

WHEREAS, despite these advocacy efforts the Governor's Executive Budget calls for no increase in base operating aid, and

WHEREAS, with no increase to base operating aid, community colleges will be unable to appropriately and substantially meet the workforce needs of New York State and Warren County, through SUNY Adirondack, particularly in healthcare, semi-conductor manufacturing, IT and other regionally-based industry sectors, and

WHEREAS, Warren County and its citizens have faithfully carried out the fiduciary duties towards SUNY Adirondack, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby urges New York State Legislators to advocate on behalf of the community college sector of SUNY by ensuring that New York State meets its fiduciary obligation to share equally its financial obligation to the community colleges with the counties by adding an additional \$97 million in operating base aid for the budget for community colleges, as requested, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to forward this Resolution with advocacy letters to State Legislators concerning the same.