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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 218 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, GREENLEAF, MARTIN, SCAVELLO, DINNIMAN,  
FARNESE, FONTANA, BARTOLOTTA, SABATINA, LANGERHOLC, BOSCOLA,  
RAFFERTY, KILLION, BROWNE, ARGALL, AUMENT, RESCHENTHALER,  
COSTA, YAW, BAKER, BREWSTER AND WAGNER, OCTOBER 16, 2017

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 16, 2017

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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  
17 degree will earn an average of \$250,000 more than individuals

1 who only complete high school over the course of their careers;  
2 and

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

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

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

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

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