Pennsylvania Community Colleges Celebrate Close to 12,000 May Graduates
Recent Grads Filling Workforce Needs in High Priority Areas Statewide

HARRISBURG, PA – The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges (PACCC) celebrate the 11,981 students who graduated from one of the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges last month. Community college graduates continue to fill workforce needs in their communities with the vast majority receiving degrees in high priority occupation areas including the health sciences, manufacturing and information technology/computer science.

"We couldn't be prouder of our graduates and the meaningful contributions they are making in communities across the Commonwealth," said Dr. Quintin Bullock, Board Chair of the PACCC and President of the Community College of Allegheny County. "A heartfelt congratulations as well to our community colleges for their steadfast dedication to providing accessible, affordable, and life-changing education and workforce training. Their efforts continue to empower students, open doors to opportunity, and meeting critical workforce needs, particularly in emerging, high-demand fields, with lasting impact."

Based on data from PA Labor & Industry, it is estimated Pennsylvania is facing a shortfall of more than 300,000 skilled trade workers by 2030. To meet the state's workforce needs and support continued economic growth, more workers will be required with appropriate credentials and training tailored to regional employer needs – an area in which community colleges excel.

"Our Commission's members play an important role in creating a pipeline of well-trained individuals to address the Commonwealth's evolving and growing workforce needs, a fact which is on display particularly at graduation time," added Dr. Tuesday Stanley, President of the PACCC.

The Commonwealth's community colleges continue to produce graduates in the health care field. In May 1,256 community college graduates received nursing degrees, adding essential nurses to the healthcare workforce.

Health sciences led the list of degrees granted this May at community colleges in the state with graduates earning credentials to serve as RNs, medical assistants, radiographers, dental hygienists, medical coders and billers, sonographers, among many others.

Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges have nearly 240,000 students enrolled across their campuses, providing real savings to students and families as they pursue additional credentials. On average, students save $30,000 on their education by starting at, or selecting, a community college for their degree or certificate. Those same 15 colleges partner with over 2,000 employers for workforce training ensuring that students have the most up-to-date knowledge and providing pathways to careers for them as well.

According to Community College Research Center, approximately 40% of all undergraduate students in the United States attend community colleges. This translates to roughly 8.6 million students. Many of these students, about 72%, are enrolled part-time.

PA Community Colleges' Graduation Stories: **AdvancePA: Community Colleges Leading the Way in Pennsylvania | Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges**

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About Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges

The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges is a nonprofit, volunteer membership association and the primary advocate for Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges. Members include the college presidents, members of the colleges' boards of trustees and key college administrators. PACCC provides leadership on issues affecting the colleges and represents the collective needs, vision and values of the colleges to state and federal policymakers. It also assists the colleges in developing positions on their areas of concern, acts as a liaison and facilitator to share information, and coordinates data collection on a statewide level to support the colleges' advocacy efforts.