

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, America's first public community college was established in Joliet, Illinois, in 1901; and,

WHEREAS, today the Illinois Community College System is the third-largest in the nation, with 48 community colleges and 39 college districts located throughout the state; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Illinois Community College Board, Illinois community colleges educate 60 percent of the students enrolled in Illinois public higher education; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is first in the nation in bachelor's degree completion rates among the 54 percent of community college students who transfer; and,

WHEREAS, nine out of 10 of the state's community college graduates live, work, pay taxes, and raise their families in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, earning an Associate of Applied Science or long-term certificate from an Illinois community college adds more than \$570,000 in lifetime earnings; and,

WHEREAS, nearly 74 percent of Illinois employers have hired a community college graduate; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges have partnered with local school districts to offer 11,270 dual credit courses to 59,039 high school students; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges share a common mission to prepare people for the workforce, to transfer students to other colleges and universities, and to continually respond to the communities they serve through adult literacy and continuing education services;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2022 to be Illinois Community College Month in honor of the Illinois Community College System and the significant contribution these institutions are making to the strength, vitality, and prosperity of our state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-EIGHT day of FEBRUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-TWO, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FOURTH.



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SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR