

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges are powerhouses of opportunity at the grassroots with 45 community colleges and 39 college districts throughout the state defining success student by student and community by community; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Illinois Community College Board, Illinois community colleges educate 75 percent of the undergraduate students enrolled in Illinois public higher education; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges are outcome-driven, ranking number one in the nation for bachelor's degree completion rates among the 54 percent of community college students who transfer; and,

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2024, Illinois community colleges partnered with local school districts and offered 15,942 dual credit courses to 91,017 high school students; and,

WHEREAS, earning an Associate of Applied Science or long-term certificate from an Illinois community college adds nearly \$600,000 in lifetime earnings; 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 continuing education services;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2025 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 for 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 EIGHTEENTH day of MARCH, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FIVE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and SIXTH.



Alexi Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR