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HARRISBURG, PA - With the passage of the 2025-26 Commonwealth Budget, Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges received level operating (\$277.338 million) and capital (\$54.61 million).

"Thanks to all those involved in finalizing the state budget. The fact that it is finalized adds some clarity for our 15 community colleges," said Dr. Tuesday Stanley, Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges (PACCC) President / CEO. "However, the level-funding makes it difficult to maintain operations for our institutions."

Pennsylvania's community college sector, as represented by the PACCC, is the backbone of local communities across the Commonwealth. In providing affordable, accessible, and high-quality educational opportunities for its students and communities, the collective missions of the 15 community colleges also move the Commonwealth forward by:

- eliminating or minimizing debt for our students;
- providing workforce solutions that match high priority occupational needs;
- delivering academic transfer pathways to other public and private institutions in the Commonwealth; and
- offering critical public safety and first-responder training opportunities and so much more.

Fall of 2025 enrollment is up 3.12 percent. In total, nearly 240,000 credit and non-credit students are served annually. Approximately 90 percent of Pennsylvania's community college students stay in their local communities, region, and Commonwealth upon completion.

Level funding for 2025-26 creates concerns. Among them are:

- reducing staff at our colleges;
- eliminating credit and non-credit programs;
- increasing tuition; and
- stifling our colleges' ability to move forward in creating innovative workforce programming, including a recent consortium approach to address needs in the building of hyperscale data centers across Pennsylvania.

"Level funding for the community college sector will have a lasting economic impact," Dr. Stanley said. "As a result, our colleges, students, and the communities we serve will be caught in the crosshairs. We will continue to do what our sector does best – focus on our students and the communities we serve. But the challenges for our colleges become greater without adequate state funding."

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About Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges

The [Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges](https://www.pacommunitycolleges.org/) 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.