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HARRISBURG, PA - With the passage of the 2026-27 Commonwealth Budget, Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges once again received level operating (\$277.338 million) and capital (\$54.161 million).

"Thanks to all those involved in finalizing the state budget," said Dr. Tuesday Stanley, Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges (PACCC) President / CEO. "While always grateful for these contributions, another year of level-funding makes it difficult to maintain operations for our institutions and to meet the workforce needs for Pennsylvania."

Over the last decade, operating funding for Pennsylvania's community college sector has increased less than 2 percent annually. Capital funding has remained level for the past five years and has increased barely above 1 percent over the last decade.

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.

Enrollment for the 2024-25 academic year was 264,000. In total, 221,382 credit and non-credit students were served. Approximately 90 percent of Pennsylvania's community college students stay in their local communities, region, and Commonwealth upon completion.

Level funding for 2026-27 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.

"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.