

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW YORK COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES APPLAUD GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S EXPANSION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES AT SUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGES

***Evening and Weekend Child Care Access at 11 SUNY Member Colleges Reflects
NYCCT's Longstanding Commitment to Removing Barriers to Student Success***

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT), the statewide nonprofit consortium representing trustees at 30 SUNY and 7 CUNY community colleges, today praised Governor Kathy Hochul's announcement expanding child care services at 11 SUNY community colleges to include evenings and weekends. The initiative, which aligns child care hours with the schedules of student parents enrolled in high-demand programs including SUNY Reconnect courses, represents a meaningful investment in student success and a direct response to one of the most persistent barriers facing community college students across New York State.

NYCCT has long recognized that student parents face unique challenges in completing their education. For trustees at New York's community colleges, ensuring that students have the support they need to stay enrolled, persist, and graduate is central to the governance mission. Access to reliable, affordable child care — especially during the evenings and weekends when many working adult learners attend classes — is not a peripheral concern. It is a prerequisite for student success.

NYCCT Member Colleges Among Those Expanding Child Care

Eleven SUNY community colleges — all NYCCT members — are participating in this expansion. Five colleges will extend child care hours into evenings and weekends: **SUNY Broome Community College, Dutchess Community College, Finger Lakes Community College, Monroe Community College, and Onondaga Community College.** Six additional colleges are creating new spots specifically for infants and toddlers: **Jamestown Community College, Nassau Community College, SUNY Niagara Community College, Rockland Community College, Tompkins Cortland Community College, and SUNY Westchester Community College.**

NYCCT is particularly pleased to see Dutchess Community College and Monroe Community College — whose successful pilot programs for evening child care generated the momentum for this statewide expansion — recognized with additional investment. Their leadership demonstrates how community colleges, when given the resources and flexibility to innovate, can become national models for student-centered support.

Supporting Adult Learners and the SUNY Reconnect Initiative

Today's announcement builds on Governor Hochul's SUNY Reconnect initiative, which provides free tuition, fees, books, and supplies for adults ages 25–55 pursuing associate degrees in high-demand fields. Community colleges are the primary home of SUNY Reconnect — and adult learners returning to school after years in the workforce are

disproportionately likely to be parents. Expanding child care access directly supports their ability to enroll, persist, and complete.

NYCCT commends Governor Hochul for recognizing that removing financial barriers to enrollment is only part of the equation. Structural supports — like child care, transportation, and wraparound services — are equally essential to student completion and long-term economic mobility. We urge continued investment in these supports as the SUNY Reconnect initiative grows.

NYCCT represents trustees across both the SUNY and CUNY systems, and we look forward to celebrating similar investments in CUNY Colleges, which serve a similarly diverse population of working adults and student parents throughout New York City.

About NYCCT

The New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) is a voluntary nonprofit consortium representing trustees at 30 SUNY and 7 CUNY community colleges across New York State. NYCCT promotes effective trusteeship, advocates for community college funding and policy priorities, and supports the vital role community colleges play in workforce development, academic access, and economic mobility for New Yorkers.

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