

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 139 OF 2016

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Conover, Seeber, Sokol, Simpson, Merlino, Dickinson, Girard, Frasier, Beaty, McDevitt and Braymer

AUTHORIZING SUPPORT FOR STATE BASE AID INCREASE FOR ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHEREAS, Chancellor Zimpher of the State University of New York, with the support of the State University of New York Board of Trustees, has launched an advocacy plan across the State to “Stand with SUNY”, and

WHEREAS, included in this “Stand With SUNY” initiative, is a request to increase state base aid support for our community colleges in 2016-2017 by \$285/FTE, and

WHEREAS, the SUNY Board of Trustees, the SUNY Community College Presidents’ Association, the New York Community College Trustees Association, the SUNY Faculty Council, and others have expressed their support for this advocacy plan, and

WHEREAS, recent base aid increases have not kept pace with the ongoing increased costs of Adirondack Community College’s basic operations despite continued focus on expense reduction and pursuit of alternative revenue sources, and

WHEREAS, Adirondack Community College’s current (2015-2016) base aid, despite the State’s 2015-2016 year-over-year increase, remains \$78/FTE lower than it was five years ago, and has not kept pace with increases mandated by contractual obligations, and

WHEREAS, State support for community college operating budgets, currently at 28 percent for Adirondack Community College, is far below the regulated 1/3 of our operating costs that the State is meant to contribute per New York State Education Law (see Education Law Article 26, Section 6304), and

WHEREAS, as one of the co-sponsors of Adirondack Community College, it is difficult to support our community college to the extent we would like due to the limitations imposed by the property tax cap and other financial costs associated with State and Federal mandates, and

WHEREAS, we recognize that Adirondack Community College is a vital part of the overall economic ecosystem of our communities, and

WHEREAS, our ability to continue to attract and grow business in our community is dependent on an educated and qualified workforce, which is provided in large part by the services of Adirondack Community College, and

WHEREAS, these circumstances for community colleges and their respective county sponsors are similar throughout the SUNY system, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, for all of these reasons, the Warren County Board of Supervisors requests that the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo support a base aid increase of \$285/FTE for SUNY’s community colleges.