



*WHEREAS, the 48 community colleges within 39 college districts in Illinois serve nearly one million students taking credit, non-credit, and community education courses each year; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Illinois Community College System is the third largest in the nation; and,*

*WHEREAS, nine out of ten Illinois community college graduates remain in Illinois after graduation to live, work, pay taxes and raise their families; and,*

*WHEREAS, the benefits of earning an associates degree or long-term certificate from an Illinois community college translate to an average of more than \$570,000 in lifetime earnings; and,*

*WHEREAS, nearly 74 percent of Illinois employers have hired a community college student; and,*

*WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges have partnered with local school districts to offer 8,780 dual credit courses to 82,895 high school students; and,*

*WHEREAS, the colleges within the Illinois Community College System share a common mission to prepare people for college and the workforce, to transfer to other colleges and universities, and continually respond to the communities they serve through adult, literacy and continuing education services;*

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim July 15, 2015 through July 15, 2016 to be THE YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Illinois Community College System.*

*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 \_\_\_\_\_ NINTH \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ JULY \_\_\_\_\_, in*  
*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*  
*\_\_\_\_\_ FIFTEEN \_\_\_\_\_, and of the State of Illinois,*  
*one hundred and \_\_\_\_\_ NINETY-SEVENTH \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Desse White*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Bruce Rauner*  
GOVERNOR