

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 452

Introduced by Walz, 15.

WHEREAS, the month of April is Community College Month and celebrates the significant contributions Nebraska community colleges make to the State of Nebraska. Community colleges are hubs of communities and partner with area businesses to create academic and workforce training programs designed specifically to meet the needs of local employers. Community colleges provide general education and other courses that lead to industry certifications and associate degrees, many of which can transfer to four-year universities for the completion of bachelor's degrees, saving students significant amounts of money. Community colleges also provide classes specifically designed to address needs and interests of local communities that are not offered at any other institution; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska community colleges play a critical role in building Nebraska's skilled workforce. Nebraska community colleges grant more than seventy-eight thousand degrees and certificates every decade, many in high-demand, high-skill, and high-wage jobs. Eighty-six percent of students attending Nebraska community colleges remain in Nebraska upon completing their educational goals; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska community colleges are a sound investment for the state. For every dollar invested in Nebraska's community colleges, the return to Nebraska taxpayers is two dollars and twenty cents; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska community colleges play a vital role in making postsecondary education accessible to low-income, minority, first generation, and nontraditional college students. These students may not otherwise be able to pursue higher education but for the open access policy, low tuition cost, and flexible student oriented scheduling of Nebraska community colleges; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the important contribution of community and technical colleges to our educational system, in 1985 Congress authorized and requested President Ronald Reagan to issue Proclamation 5418 which established a National Community College Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes April 2022 as Community College Month and calls upon the people of Nebraska to unite in support of the success of community colleges in the state.