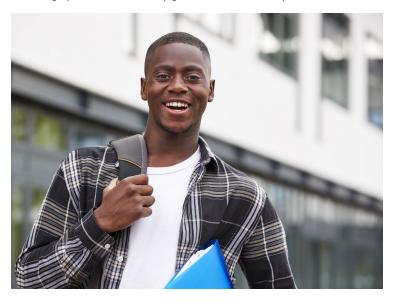# EMPOWER ERIE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE NOW!

Q: How is community college different than the schools we have here?

A: With Erie County's poverty rate above state and national averages, many local citizens can't afford to go to four-year colleges or expensive private trade schools. Compounding the challenge is that local workers who are displaced or seeking a pathway to a better job don't have the time or money to go to a traditional four-year college.

The affordability, accessibility and adaptability of a community college addresses all those challenges, allowing residents from all 38 municipalities, regardless of age, background or circumstance, to further their education in a way that fits their lifestyle, schedule and budget.

1. **Accessibility:** Right now, you would have to drive 100 miles to get to the closest community college. ECCC will be close to home for all Erie County residents. And you could attend ECCC regardless of past academic record or other barriers that often prevent people from furthering their education and developing new skills. Often community college offers an affordable option to prepare people to succeed at four-year institutions where they can earn bachelor's degrees.

2. **Affordability:** Community college is the most affordable way to get a degree. At $105 per credit, ECCC will be the most affordable option for Erie County residents, significantly less than tuition at two- and four-year institutions or private trade schools. Charges for the 14 community colleges, as of 2018-19, range from $100 to $180.25 per credit.

3. **Adaptability:** Community colleges are unique in that they work closely with local businesses to tailor curriculum and course offerings to the specific workforce needs, now and in the future. As the needs change, curriculum can change along with it to ensure that the community college produces work-ready graduates who will stay in Erie.

Q: What types of degrees and training will the community college offer?

A: Students attending Erie County Community College will be able to earn two-year associate degrees and professional certifications—or just take classes that interest them or enhance their skills or knowledge.

YEAR ONE

WHEN IT FIRST OPENS, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE WILL OFFER 10 ASSOCIATE DEGREE MAJORS:

Accounting	Associate of Arts	Associate of Science
Management	Computer-aided Design	Information Services
Automation Engineering Technology	Machining and Manufacturing	Management and Entrepreneurship
Medical Assistant	Network Systems	Surgical Technology
Welding		

YEARS 2-5

ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS WILL BE OFFERED:

Environmental Technology	Nursing (Long Term, Home Care)	Medical Coding (Physician Office)
Interactive Digital Media	Human Services	Digital Arts
Tourism Computer Security	Web Development	Counseling
Sports and Fitness Management	Industrial Maintenance Technologies	Quality Assurance Specialist
Public Safety	Sustainable Agriculture	Logistics
Journalism and Communication	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	Electrical Engineering Technologies
Public Administration and Hospitality	Software and Mobile Application Development	Hardware Maintenance and Information Systems

Q: How can you be sure that the other colleges in the area don't already have this covered?

A: Each of the colleges in our region do a great job of meeting the needs of their students and filling specific niches for higher education. However, the Pennsylvania Department of Education specifically determined that Erie County's population currently "is not adequately served by established institutions of higher learning" and that the Erie County Community College would fill in the gaps.

A major focus when establishing the community college plan was to limit duplication with the educational offering that already exists in the region.

FAQS: ECCC BENEFITS OUR STUDENTS

Specifically, the goal of this effort was to avoid duplication of existing program offerings unless those programs were not readily accessible to the population we determined as benefitting from an Erie County Community College offering because of cost, accessibility, and number of enrollment slots available in existing programs or other limiting factors.

Further, there was a thorough review of continuing education offerings currently being provided by industry groups, secondary education institutions and propriety institutions, which are delivered on a not-for-college-credit basis. This review was to further ensure that the community college would not duplicate current offerings.

Q: Doesn't the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College offer everything we need in terms of community college education?

A: Not even close. NPRC can be a great option for certain students, but it does not, and never will have the capabilities to provide the post-secondary education of the **scope and scale that is necessary to meet the need for skilled and well-trained workers that local businesses and organizations need to grow and thrive.**

Beyond that, NPRC is not listed as one of the 14 community colleges in Pennsylvania because they don't have to follow any of the requirements set for in Community College regulations, including:

• They are not required to keep the tuition cost to below 1/3 of the operating cost of the college. By comparison, NPRC also costs $185 per credit charge compared to ECCC's affordable $105 per credit for an education in a bricks-and-mortar college setting right here in Erie County.

• They are not required to fund the acquisition of facilities, as community colleges are required to provide building of certain facilities within the first 10 years.

• They use a video technology method versus the traditional and successful community college method of instruction, which is vital to most technical training.

• They are dependent on other entities for facilities and labs, which are not always available.

THE TIME IS NOW!
JOIN THE FIGHT. SIGN THE PETITION. EMAIL OR CALL YOUR LAWMAKERS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO GET INVOLVED:

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