



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, almost half of all undergraduate students in the country attend community colleges, and nearly one million “middle-skill” job openings – positions requiring more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree – are projected for New York State by 2018; and

**Whereas**, there are many benefits to completing an associate degree; a student with an associate degree earns \$400,000 more over his or her lifetime than a high school graduate; unemployment for community college graduates is typically 30 percent lower than for high school graduates; and

**Whereas**, New York residents who transfer directly from a State University of New York (SUNY) or City University of New York (CUNY) two-year college with an associate degree are guaranteed entry to a four-year SUNY college; and

**Whereas**, the 37 SUNY and CUNY community colleges are setting aside October 3<sup>rd</sup> to send the message that students who complete an associate degree have better prospects for jobs, scholarships, and transfer to four-year schools; and

**Whereas**, SUNY and CUNY community colleges across the state are holding special events, workshops, guest lectures, and counseling sessions to help students understand how completing a degree can change their lives, change their communities, and change the nation;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 3, 2012 as

## COMPLETION DAY

in the Empire State.

**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth  
day of September in the year two thousand twelve.



Governor

Secretary to the Governor