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 3rd 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.

Given 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