

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, community and technical colleges are "Democracy's colleges," vital bridges to lifelong education for students of all ages, ethnicities and economic backgrounds to pursue their dreams and goals; and

WHEREAS, Washington's 34 community and technical colleges serve nearly 381,000 students each year and elevate the lives of students and all who live here with better jobs and brighter futures; and

WHEREAS, these colleges add \$20.5 billion to our economy each year, strengthening the economic and social cultures of the diverse communities of our state; and

WHEREAS, the college system partners with Washington's public and private four-year schools to create a smooth transition to higher levels of education and trains high-skilled workers for living wage jobs and careers; and

WHEREAS, literacy instruction, pre-college, English language classes for immigrants, and continuing education of all kinds give adults a chance to improve their own lives, as well as the lives of their children and families; and

WHEREAS, the Community and Technical College Act of 1991 designated the state's five public vocational-technical institutes as technical colleges, joining the community colleges into one system; and

WHEREAS, Governor Daniel J. Evans signed the Community College Act of 1967 on April 3 of that year to offer an open door to every citizen, regardless of academic background or experience, making this day the 50th anniversary of our state's community and technical college system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 3, 2017, the 50th anniversary of Washington's Community and Technical Colleges, as

Community and Technical College Day

Signed this 3rd day of April, 2017

Governor Jay Inslee

