

Assembly Resolution No. 1032

**BY:** M. of A. Fahy

**COMMEMORATING** the 60th Anniversary of Maria  
College on April 25, 2018

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in higher education for the youth of this noble Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Maria College, in Albany, New York, to be feted with a myriad of occasions and celebrations planned throughout the year, beginning with an opening event on Wednesday, April 25, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** For six decades, Maria College has been committed to providing outstanding and holistic student support services, financial sustainability and the purposive use of evidence to drive institutional renewal and student success; the College seeks to foster graduates who recognize and respect the dignity of every human person and who will transform their knowledge and skill into caring and compassionate service to others; and

**WHEREAS,** Maria College is one of 17 colleges and universities in the United States sponsored by the Conference for Mercy Higher Education; the Conference traces its heritage to 1831, when Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland; and

**WHEREAS,** Catherine McAuley truly believed education was a key to one's ultimate success, and she used her inheritance to purchase a building in downtown Dublin where women and children could find both refuge and education; her ideas and dedication to the cause attracted other local women and soon evolved into the Sisters of Mercy; and

**WHEREAS,** The Sisters of Mercy quickly grew, and became international in scope; in 1863, four Sisters of Mercy took a boat up the Hudson River and settled in Albany, New York; true to their mission of caring and service to others, the order founded St. Peter's Hospital, the McAuley Residence, Circles of Mercy, and Maria College; and

**WHEREAS,** Maria College was established in 1958 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide higher education for its community of sisters; under the visionary leadership of its first president, Sister Mary Borromeo, the College's focus on solely educating sisters changed, and the college received permission to open its doors to the public in 1965; and

**WHEREAS,** In the early 1970s, the college opened a preschool which served Albany families for more than 40 years; now closed, the campus school building has been renamed Mercy Hall, and was dedicated in 2017 to the Frank E. O'Brien Jr. Student Support Center which strives to make Maria College's students feel welcome, supported, and enabled to meet

their goals; support services include tutoring, pastoral care, and career guidance; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1975, Maria College purchased a cloistered convent campus that abutted the administration building grounds; this beautiful campus area, now known as Marian Hall, is home to nursing, health sciences, faculty offices, a student lounge and a great hall which is frequently used for campus events; and

**WHEREAS,** Currently, 800 students attend classes at Maria College, which boasts a charming and intimate campus that embraces an academic atmosphere both timeless and contemporary; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, Maria College now offers four and two year degrees and a certificate program providing new opportunities with flexible scheduling and highly affordable education for residents of the Capital Region; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, under the visionary guidance of President Thomas J. Gamble, Ph.D., Maria College stands proud and prominent, always looking to the future and the needs of those it serves; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Maria College, noting the propriety of its goals, the constancy of its commitment and the significance of its accomplishments in preparing the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Thomas J. Gamble, Ph.D., President, Maria College.