

BY: Senator STEWART-COUSINS

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of the SUNY
Westchester Educational Opportunity Center

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those commemorative historical events which symbolize the growth and development of the educational institutions which comprise the communities of this great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Westchester Educational Opportunity Center, to be celebrated on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at the Graduation & Completion Ceremony held by SUNY Westchester Community College in Yonkers, New York; and

WHEREAS, Westchester EOC provides access to quality education and serves as the center of influence for training and career development for students and the community; they are committed to fostering the personal growth, intellectual development, and economic independence of students while supporting the economic revitalization and well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, Providing a comprehensive array of tuition-free developmental, educational, and vocational training programs for eligible adults in a supportive environment, Westchester EOC enables students to obtain the skills and credentials they need to pursue higher education and secure career-oriented employment; and

WHEREAS, Westchester EOC's vocational program offerings are designed to prepare students for careers in healthcare, business, and the knowledge economy with select hands-on skills; in addition to receiving occupational-skills training for specific careers, many of their vocational students also obtain industry or state certifications in their field of study; and

WHEREAS, Offering courses meant to accommodate working-adult schedules, Westchester EOC's language and foundational education programs are designed to improve student's basic skills in math, reading, writing and critical thinking; students who successfully complete these classes can typically enroll in vocational or more-advanced academic programs; and

WHEREAS, Westchester EOC's College Prep Academy helps prepare students for the college placement exam, to minimize the number of developmental or remedial classes a student might need once they register for college; furthermore, they provide college tours, workshops, and guidance to help make the transition to higher education easier and more successful; and

WHEREAS, Partnering with well-established and significant employers,

other educational institutions and training providers, community-based organizations, and state and local government agencies, Westchester EOC provides internships and externships for their students, offer customized training, and refer trained and screened candidates for available job openings; and

WHEREAS, Serving as a resource on various workforce development issues in the County, Westchester EOC provides workshops at a variety of public forums and venues relating to public policy, federal legislation, and the needs of underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Westchester Educational Opportunity Center may look back with pride upon its humble beginnings, find just satisfaction in its purposeful growth and hold true of purpose in its commitment to serving the educational needs of the citizens of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to join with the Westchester Educational Opportunity Center in the celebration of its 50th Anniversary, recognizing on this auspicious occasion that the quality and dignity of life are empowered by the faithful and diligent efforts of such noble institutions of learning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the SUNY Westchester Educational Opportunity Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the SUNY Westchester Educational Opportunity Center.