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## For Immediate Release

### Joint Statement on the Passage of S2303/A4843 to Establish Work and Learn Consortiums

New Jersey's community colleges and county vocational school districts applaud the vision of Senate President Sweeney, Senators Ruiz, and Cunningham, Assemblymen Wimberly, Karabinchak, and Calabrese for developing legislation that would establish Work and Learn Consortiums across the state. We also thank the members of the Senate and Assembly for supporting this important initiative.

Community colleges and county vocational schools have maintained a special relationship for many years because of their county-based structure and shared mission to prepare students for continued education and in-demand careers.

This legislation, once signed by the Governor, will build on these strong partnerships to create educational pathways that prepare students for family-supporting careers in the rapidly changing, innovation economy. We look forward to working with the Legislature, the Murphy administration, and businesses across the state to ensure that New Jersey has a skilled workforce to propel economic growth. The establishment of Work and Learn Consortiums is consistent with the priorities of the county vocational school districts and with the priorities of Vision 2028, the framework for the future of New Jersey's community colleges.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges is a non-profit organization enshrined in state law that works to support and strengthen the state's 18 community colleges. More information on the Council and the state's community colleges can be found at: <https://www.njccc.org>, and more information on Vision 2028 can be found at: <https://www.njccc.org/vision-2028>.

The New Jersey Council of County Vocational School Districts represents the state's 21 county vocational-technical school districts. For more information, please see: <https://www.careertechnj.org/>.

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