



Community College of Philadelphia FY2027 City Council Budget Testimony

Council President Johnson, and esteemed members of City Council, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today, to share some of the exciting momentum at Community College of Philadelphia.

On behalf of our College community, we appreciate your unflagging support of Community College of Philadelphia and look forward to working with all of you as we continue to advance the city's college.

I am joined at the table today by Derrick Sawyer, the College's associate vice president of Budgets and Business Services. I am also grateful to be joined by members of the College's cabinet.

Today, we are eager to share information about successes and accomplishments at the College, including recent awards and distinctions, such as: the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, awarded by the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, highlighting our institution's commitment to partnerships advancing community well-being; a 2025-2026 Military Friendly School Silver designation from Victory, celebrating our holistic support of veteran students; and a 2026 ALL IN Action Plan Seal from the ALL In Campus Democracy Challenge for developing a nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan through our #CCPVotes programming.

I am also pleased to highlight our robust impact on our local economy, important partnerships including those in dual enrollment and with neighboring institutions that have yielded increased enrollment; workforce development programs like naval welding and nondestructive testing, which just marked their first cohort graduation; and our Commencement ceremony, which took place this past Saturday at the Liacouras Center and celebrated approximately 1,900 graduates.

We remain grateful for the funds provided last year, which have helped to propel much of our successes, and will be happy to answer any questions you may have after we conclude our testimony.

Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) stands as one of the region's most consequential educational and economic institutions. Through a combination of robust academic programming, deep employer partnerships, and targeted community investment, CCP generates broad-based impact that extends well beyond the classroom — touching the lives of students, workers, employers, and Philadelphia neighborhoods alike.

Economic Impact

According to a recent economic and social impact report conducted by Philadelphia-based eConsult, CCP generates nearly \$967 million in annual economic activity, with \$882 million of that benefiting the city of Philadelphia directly. The College also contributes more than \$30 million to local and state tax revenues each year.

CCP's economic footprint is felt not only through its spending and employment, but through its role in retaining Philadelphia residents. An estimated 10 percent of CCP students would have left the city to attend college elsewhere if CCP did not exist. Their continued presence in Philadelphia adds approximately \$50 million to the city's economy annually.

The return on investment for students is equally striking. For every dollar a student invests at CCP, their lifetime earnings increase by \$5.90. Taxpayer investments are returned at a rate of \$2 for every dollar invested. Students who go on to transfer to four-year institutions save up to \$117,000 by beginning their academic journey at CCP. Nationally, associate degree completers earn a median salary 18 percent higher than those who completed only high school.

CCP employs approximately 1,600 people across three locations throughout the city — at 1700 Spring Garden, 4750 Market, and 12901 Townsend — including 327 full-time faculty, 708 part-time faculty, 300 administrators, and a range of classified and support staff.

Students and Enrollment

In the 2024–25 academic year, CCP enrolled 18,326 credit students and 3,367 noncredit students. Enrollment has risen 5 percent — marking a recovery from a decade of decline following the pandemic — and CCP now holds the highest headcount among the 15 community colleges in Pennsylvania.

The student body is notably diverse. Approximately 67 percent of students identify as minorities, with Black non-Hispanic students comprising 36.5 percent, Hispanic students 18.23 percent, Asian/Pacific Islander students 8.82 percent, and multiracial students 3.69 percent. More than half of students (58 percent) are 24 or younger, with a median age of 23, and women represent 66 percent of the student population. Approximately 33 percent are first-generation college students.

In terms of academic direction, 63 percent of students are pursuing transfer or liberal arts programs, 25 percent are enrolled in career programs, and 14 percent are taking continuing education courses. The graduation rate for first-time, full-time students has been steadily rising, reaching 24 percent. Since 2022, CCP has awarded degrees to 5,378 graduates — 2,068 in 2024–25 alone, up from 1,663 the prior year.

Of those who complete their studies at CCP, 91.9 percent are employed, with 72.4 percent working within Philadelphia and 19.5 percent in the broader metro area. A remarkable 98 percent of CCP students remain in Philadelphia after completing their programs — a stark contrast to peer institutions and a direct benefit to the city's

workforce and tax base. For context, only 20.7 percent of Philadelphia adults aged 25 and older currently hold a bachelor's degree.

Basic Needs Supports

Given our diverse student population, it is not just the cost of attending college that can act as a barrier for students; many need help accessing other basic needs support services as well. Sixty-nine percent of the College's students received some type of financial aid during the 2024–25 academic year, while 85 percent of students are eligible to receive federal Pell grants. Seventy-five percent of students report recently experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity or homelessness, while approximately 4,000 students and/or their families rely on SNAP benefits. As a result, in 2024-2025, the College distributed \$491,000 in emergency funds, marking a 41 percent increase from the previous year. These funds helped students afford books, rent, food, transportation, and other critical needs.

The College also continues to explore access to reliable transportation for our students. During our most recent contract negotiations, the College and the Federation signed a noncontractual memorandum of understanding, which reads: "The parties agree that during the term of this agreement the College will negotiate with SEPTA for a free public transportation benefit." In keeping with this understanding, the College has continued its negotiations with SEPTA, which began prior to labor negotiations starting in January 2024 and occurred as recently as last month. The College also launched a free transit pilot program for eligible students at the Career and Advanced Technology Center and West Regional Center in January. We are working directly with the elected Student Government Association to assess student interest while we continue to evaluate costs and long-term sustainability, especially at a time when no other institution of higher education in the city offers free SEPTA passes to all students. An initial review of data from a recent student survey demonstrates about 51 percent of respondents rely on public transportation to commute to and from CCP, while 20 percent drive, 12 percent take a rideshare, and 11 percent walk. We look forward to analyzing this data more extensively to inform next steps regarding SEPTA and efforts to enhance access to transportation.

We are also working diligently to support the more than 25 percent of students and many employees who are parents. In the fall, we opened Roary's Cubhouse, a space on Main Campus outfitted with games, crafts and books to keep children occupied while their parents or caregivers study. Additionally, while the College had to close the child care center years ago due to lack of use and financial losses to the institution, we are gathering data from our staff and students to assess the ongoing need for child care on campus, while also reviewing our capacity to fiscally support this endeavor during a time of increasing enrollment and operational expenses. We look forward to continuing to support our student parents and caregivers in ways that suit them as they work toward their goals.

Transfer Pathways and Academic Achievement

CCP serves as a critical gateway to bachelor's degree attainment. In the Philadelphia region, over half of all jobs requiring a four-year degree went unfilled in 2023. Bachelor's degree holders earn approximately \$30,000 more per year than high school graduates, while an associate's degree yields \$8,000 to \$10,000 more annually.

CCP has supported 5,646 graduates who transferred to pursue bachelor's degrees, with the actual number of transferring students significantly higher when accounting for those who leave prior to graduating. In the 2025–26 academic year, top transfer destinations include Temple University (615 students), Drexel University (208), West Chester University (107), and Cheyney University (30). An additional 6,623 students who transferred to Philadelphia institutions over the past decade did so without first completing their CCP degree, remaining in the city and continuing their education at institutions including La Salle, Thomas Jefferson, Holy Family, and Saint Joseph's. Academic distinction is also on the rise. Five CCP students have been named Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship semifinalists — more than any other community college in Pennsylvania. Winners receive up to \$55,000 per year for up to three years to study at the four-year institution of their choice. CCP students have also participated in the Undergraduate Research Symposium alongside students from Drexel, Penn, and other four-year institutions.

Workforce Development: Advanced Manufacturing and Technical Training
CCP's Career and Advanced Technology Center (CATC) — the College's newest location, opened in 2022 in West Philadelphia — has become a hub for workforce training in high-demand technical fields. Enrollment at CATC has grown by 115 percent compared with the prior year, more than doubling to over 350 students. The facility offers free on-site parking, state-of-the-art equipment, and fully funded scholarship support through the CCP Foundation.

Among the CATC's most impactful programs is its Naval Welding Lab, developed in partnership with major regional employers. First cohorts are already at maximum capacity, and additional evening and daytime cohorts are launching in spring. The program is fully funded and offered at no cost to students, who can enter the workforce in under five months with an average starting salary of nearly \$55,000.

The non-destructive testing (NDT) program, also fully funded and free to students, prepares graduates to enter the workforce in six months. NDT specialists earn a median salary of \$77,000, reflecting the strong employer demand in this field. CATC's broader program portfolio spans transportation technology (including automotive, Toyota T-10, and medium/heavy truck programs), alternative fuel and electric vehicle certifications, healthcare training (dental assisting, massage therapy, pharmacy technician, clinical medical assisting, and nurse aide), and advanced manufacturing disciplines including CNC precision machining, welding technology, and electromechanical technology.

This work is no longer theoretical. CCP students have been on-site at Hanwha Philly Shipyard, engaging directly with employers and seeing the careers they are training for. The College recently graduated 22 students through a Naval Welding Lab ribbon-cutting ceremony, with a second cohort launching this spring. Student applications are already in motion with Hanwha, Rhoads Industries, and Holtec International.

The Mobility Hub initiative is accelerating these technical career pathways across industrial maintenance, CNC machining, welding, and NDT — all roles on Philadelphia's High Priority Occupation list. The model is built for equity: training is anchored at the CATC with targeted recruitment, transportation support, and wraparound services to

help residents start and complete programs. Employer partners are not passive; Hanwha, Holtec, and others are co-building curriculum, hosting site visits, and committing to interview at least 80 percent of graduates.

To date, a \$1.8 million City investment has allowed CCP to stand up this infrastructure quickly and responsibly. Continued support enables the College to scale cohort capacity, deepen employer commitments, and expand access to more Philadelphians — without rebuilding the system from the ground up.

Healthcare Workforce Pipeline

Health and wellness is one of Philadelphia’s core economic engines, and CCP is serving as the backbone of the region’s healthcare workforce pipeline. Demand for clinical and non-clinical talent remains high, and CCP is meeting that demand through an expanding array of credit and non-credit programs aligned with regional employer needs.

CCP’s nursing program is a recognized center of excellence. The College’s simulation lab is state-of-the-art, and CCP nursing students consistently achieve a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN, among the highest in the region. The 19130 Zip Code Nursing Project is a long-standing community-based initiative led by CCP’s Department of Nursing. In 2025, nursing students participating in the project’s community health rotation served more than 15,000 Philadelphians facing health, housing, and access-to-care challenges — reflecting the College’s deep commitment to serving the city’s most vulnerable residents while training future nurses to lead with empathy.

CCP’s Respiratory Care Technology program is similarly best-in-class, supported by a modern lab environment. Additional programs in Health Services Management, Public Health, Diagnostic Medical Imaging, Behavioral Health and Human Services, and ASL/English Interpreting round out a comprehensive healthcare curriculum.

Non-credit to credit pathways — in areas such as Clinical Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technology, and Nurse Aide — provide fast on-ramps to employment for individuals who need to enter the workforce quickly. Partnerships with the Skills Initiative, Penn Medicine, the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and Career Connections create a full-service employment pipeline: from recruitment and screening through job placement and wraparound support.

Healthcare continuing education has seen sharp year-over-year growth in sections, students, and revenue — reflecting rising demand and strong financial sustainability in this area. New program possibilities under exploration include forensic science and fire science, which would further extend CCP’s reach into public safety and specialized technical fields.

City Partnership Programs and Dual Enrollment

CCP’s partnerships with the City of Philadelphia and the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) are central to its community impact. Programs including Advance at College, Gateway to College, and Parkway Center City Middle College (PCCMC) expose high school students to post-secondary academic and career pathways, with City funding

covering tuition and textbooks for most non-middle college students (up to four courses per year).

Dual enrollment participation has grown consistently: from 1,297 students in FY23, to 1,596 in FY24, to 1,766 in FY25. Over 400 students graduated from PCCMC last year alone, earning their associate degrees before receiving their high school diplomas. Top high schools by dual enrollment participation include Parkway Center City Middle College (457 students), G.W. Carver High School for Engineering and Science (168), Masterman Laboratory Demonstration School (41), and Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts (39). This summer, we are excited to be able to expand our Advanced College Experience program to rising ninth graders in schools previously underrepresented in the initiative, thanks in part to collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Education. Additionally, new state allocations for dual enrollment will support continued expansion of these opportunities, particularly in areas of the city that are traditionally underrepresented in these programs.

Through its partnership with the City, CCP also administers workforce training programs through the City College for Municipal Employment. This initiative provides free training and a pathway to City of Philadelphia employment across skilled trades, healthcare, technology, business administration, and public safety. High school students also have the ability to explore interests and participate. To date, more than 400 residents have enrolled and more than 80 have completed the program, and we are excited to recognize another 161 completers at a celebration on campus next month.

Catto Scholars: Anti-Poverty Initiative

The Catto Scholars program is CCP's flagship free-college, anti-poverty initiative, offering tuition coverage and wraparound supports to eligible students. Supported by an \$11 million City allocation, the program has produced 581 graduates to date, all of whom are continuing their education or working.

The outcomes are measurably superior to non-Catto peers. Catto Scholars graduate at double the rate of comparable non-Catto students: the College's overall graduation rate is 24 percent, while the Catto graduation rate stands at 34 percent. Transfer rates for Catto graduates also exceed the College's overall transfer rate, demonstrating that financial and wraparound support is a powerful lever for academic success.

The Catto program is also supporting SDP goals around educator diversity. Funding from Catto is covering costs for paraprofessionals pursuing teacher preparation programs at CCP, currently in its second cohort.

Teacher Pipeline and Education Programs

CCP is committed to strengthening Philadelphia's teacher pipeline as part of its broader workforce strategy. Working in concert with the Mayor's Office of Education and the School District, the College launched its first paraprofessional cohort in September 2024, with 10 students persisting through the program. A second cohort launched in May 2025 with 12 students.

CCP's education enrollment reflects this commitment: 413 students are enrolled in Early Childhood (Birth through 4th Grade) programs and 79 in Middle and Secondary education.

A new partnership with Cheyney University will launch in fall 2026, with 30 students already in the pipeline. The model is designed to support City residents with free tuition, support services, and transportation assistance — both on the Cheyney campus and at CCP. The first cohort will span both education and business programs, establishing a replicable model for bachelor's degree attainment among Philadelphians.

60th Anniversary

I would be remiss if I did not add that the College is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary this year. Since first opening its doors, the College has served more than 750,000 students seeking to advance their lives through higher education. Special programming and events throughout the year have commemorated this milestone, with a culminating Rhythm and RISE celebration taking place on June 9th—with special guest, Lifetime Achievement Award winner and Philadelphia's own—Patti LaBelle! I hope you'll join us for this event, as we embark on a musical journey through the sound of Philadelphia, past and present, and raise money in support of our amazing students.

In closing, Community College of Philadelphia is not simply our city's largest public institution of higher learning — it is a central pillar of Philadelphia's economic, workforce, and social infrastructure. From generating nearly \$1 billion in annual economic activity to training welders, nurses, teachers, and technologists who stay in the city and build careers here, CCP delivers measurable, sustained value to every neighborhood it serves.

With growing enrollment, expanding partnerships, and a proven model for equity-centered workforce development, CCP is well-positioned to scale its impact — and to serve as the engine of economic mobility Philadelphia needs.



**THANK YOU
CITY
COUNCIL**

For Your
Leadership
Partnership and
Commitment to
Our Community

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA



SERVING ALL WHO MAY BENEFIT
Sixty Years of Educational Access

Cover:

As the College celebrates 60 years of serving the community, styles may have changed, but our mission hasn't. The archival photo framed in our logo shows members of our community gathering during the College's earlier years.



MISSION STATEMENT

Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) is the only community college and the largest public institution of higher education in Philadelphia, playing a vital role in the education of the region's population. The College is committed to providing quality education for all, regardless of economic circumstances or background.

As a Minority-serving institution supporting a diverse population, the College provides education that leads to transferring to a four-year institution, directly into employment or ongoing professional development. Approximately 93 percent of recent graduates are employed in the greater Philadelphia region, significantly contributing to the area's economy.

Despite these successes, the fact remains that the cost of attending college represents a significant barrier for many of the College's students. Sixty-nine percent of the College's students have received some type of financial aid during the 2024–25 academic year, 85 percent of students are eligible to receive federal Pell grants and more than 38 percent are first-generation college students.

At CCP, we believe that every individual deserves access to higher education and all students should have the support they need to succeed.

A COMMUNITY OF GENEROSITY



“Your dreams are worth fighting for. No matter where you are in life, it’s never too late to go back and get your education—especially when amazing organizations like The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and CCP are there to support your journey.”

Kamal Rhodes '25

Recipient of the Hayward L. Bell, Joseph and Marie Field Foundation Opportunity and Jack Kent Cooke scholarships

“Giving back isn’t just about money or providing housing; the journey is about finding meaningful ways to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Atiya Goldsmith-Irby '08

Scholarship creator





EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

(2024–2025 Academic Year)



The largest public institution of higher education in Philadelphia and the sixth largest in Pennsylvania, the College has served more than 700,000 individuals since it began operation.

STUDENT BODY ENROLLMENT

- **21,067** credit and noncredit **students**
- **10,690 full-time** equivalent students
- **18,710** students enrolled in **credit classes**

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

- **67%** are **minority students**
- **Women (66%) / Men (32%)**
- **58%** aged **24 or younger**
 - Median age: 23
- **63%** pursuing **transfer/liberal arts** programs
- **25%** pursuing **career** programs
- **14%** pursuing **continuing education** coursework

ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

100+ degree, certificate and noncredit programs

- Pathways in *Business, Entrepreneurship and Law; Creative Arts; Design, Construction and Transportation; Education and Human Services; Health Care; Liberal Arts and Communications; and Science and Technology*

1,251 FACULTY AND STAFF

- **328** full-time faculty
- **402** part-time faculty
- **521** administrative and support staff

STUDENT NEEDS

Approximately **78%** of **full-time students** and **69%** of the **College's students** have **received** some type of **financial aid** during the **2024–25 academic year**.

75% of **students** have recently experienced **food insecurity, housing insecurity or homelessness**.*

Approximately **4,000 students** and/or their families **rely on SNAP benefits**.

BUDGET FUNDING

For FY2025–26, **operating costs** are projected to be shared among **students (36%)**, the **City (29%)**, the **Commonwealth (23%)**, and **other sources, including auxiliary services (6%)**. The remainder of the **operating revenue** is satisfied through the use of **finite reserves**. The debt service used to cover **capital costs** is split by the **City (50%)** and the **Commonwealth (50%)**.

LOCATIONS

Main Campus

1700 Spring Garden Street

Career and Advanced Technology Center

4750 Market Street

Northeast Regional Center

12901 Townsend Road

West Regional Center

4731 Ludlow Street

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Community College of Philadelphia:

An Economic Engine for Philadelphia and the Commonwealth

The College, as well as employees, students and alumni, contribute substantial dollars to the economic vitality of the community and Pennsylvania.

Economic Impact

City of Philadelphia

- \$935M
- 3,890 jobs supported
- \$298M employee compensation

Pennsylvania

- \$1,031M
- 4,370 jobs supported
- \$327M employee compensation

Student Spending

City of Philadelphia

- \$55M

Pennsylvania

- \$60M

Alumni Wage Premium

City of Philadelphia

- \$281M

Pennsylvania

- \$310M

Tax Revenues

City of Philadelphia

- \$14M *approximate annual*

Pennsylvania

- \$16M *approximate annual*



Community College of Philadelphia generates **\$1 billion** in **annual economic activity** while supporting **more than 4,370 jobs** and **adding \$30 million** to **local** and **state tax revenues**.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

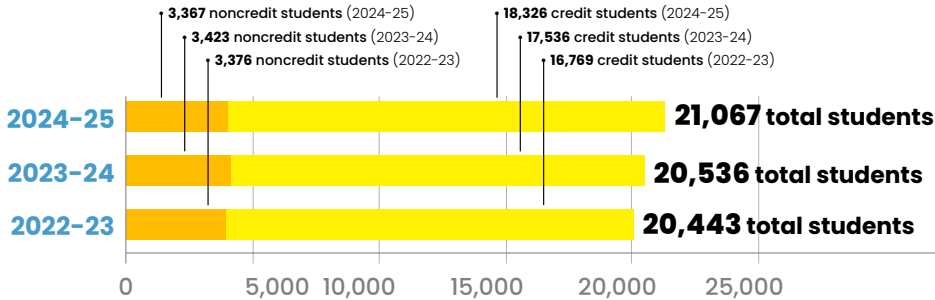
2024-25 Total Enrollment:

21,067 students

an **increase of 8 percent** from 2022-23

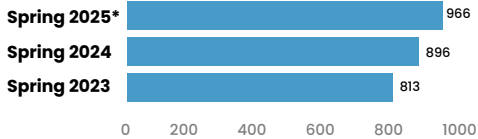


Community College of Philadelphia currently has the **highest enrollment** as well as the **highest enrollment growth** rate among Pennsylvania's community colleges.



New Dual Enrollment Students

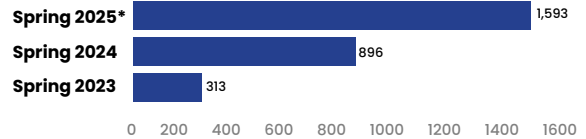
Students simultaneously **earning a high school diploma** and an **associate degree**



*a **19 percent increase** from spring 2023

Catto Scholarship Enrollment

Students receiving **last-dollar funding** and **support services** to **earn a degree for free**



*a **409 percent increase** from spring 2023



Graduate Successes

The **Class of 2024** is significantly contributing to the Philadelphia region.

2024 graduates:

1,645

69%
are employed
in Philadelphia
County

94%
of graduates
are employed

average salary:
\$74,850

24%
are employed in
the Philadelphia
metro area

95%
rate their career
preparation at
CCP as 'good' or
'excellent'



CELEBRATING



COMMUNITY
COLLEGE OF
PHILADELPHIA

City of Philadelphia Council Districts

Students Enrolled 2023 - 2024

