

MEDIA RELEASE



COUNTY OF ERIE
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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CONTACT:

Melissa J. Dixon
mdixon@eriecountypa.gov
814-451-7440

Erie County community college plan vote stalled – will go to public hearing

Erie, PA – County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Director of Administration Gary Lee, members of Empower Erie and many others testified today before the Pennsylvania Board of Education in Harrisburg to urge them to take a vote today on the proposed community college application for the County of Erie. The board voted 8 to 6 to move to a public hearing to take place in Erie County within six months.

Dahlkemper, members of the community college committee, and Erie County business owners provided testimony Oct. 29 before the special committee in Harrisburg to demonstrate the need for a community college in Erie County.

The three special committee members of the state Board of Education who were present at the Oct. 29 hearing then recommended to the full board Nov. 13 to move to a public hearing.

“We are very disappointed in the decision to move to a hearing,” Dahlkemper said. “It was our hope they would have voted on our application today. We have done our due diligence, we have provided sound evidence, and we have made a compelling case for the establishment of a community college in Erie County. Community leaders of business, manufacturing and educational institutions support our application. Gov. Tom Wolf supports it. We are grateful to those from the county who traveled the distance to demonstrate their support in moving this forward. We expect all board members to make the commitment to be physically present at the public hearing in Erie County. We are hoping they will make this a priority and not make us wait another six months. The evidence is solid, and our commitment to making this come to fruition remains.”

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