



DIRECTIVE 2020-061

December 18, 2020

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY EASTERN GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CONTINUE WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLUMBIANA COUNTY, MAHONING COUNTY, AND TRUMBULL COUNTY UNDER THE EASTERN GATEWAY GUARANTEE.

§375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly required any waiver of tuition for a student or class of students not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education be approved by the Chancellor of Higher Education (the “Chancellor”). On April 17, 2009, the Chancellor signed Directive 2009-011 establishing procedures for institutions to follow when requesting to waive standard tuition rates. §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for the biennium.

Pursuant to §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 as well as Directive 2009-011, Eastern Gateway Community College (“EGCC”) has requested for spring semester 2021, to continue to waive standard tuition rates for students living in Jefferson County, Columbiana County, Mahoning County, and Trumbull County.

EGCC has demonstrated the following:

- EGCC’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing to continue a tuition waiver at its meeting on November 11, 2020. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- EGCC has submitted a specific request to continue to reduce tuition rates for students living in Jefferson County to \$0 and to continue to reduce tuition rates for students living in Columbiana County, Mahoning County, and Trumbull County to \$1 through the Eastern Gateway Guarantee as described below. The maximum waiver will be \$3,200.00 per student per academic year.
 - Under the Eastern Gateway Guarantee EGCC will waive remaining tuition costs to eligible students as shown below after other grants, scholarships, and other federal funding is applied.

WHEREAS, while on average 55% of Ohioans continued their education beyond high school, far fewer did so in the EGCC Service District with only 42.3% in Columbiana County, 43.6% in Trumbull County, 47.7% in Jefferson County and 52.2% in Mahoning County continuing their education beyond high school⁴; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Eastern Gateway Community College (“the Board”) recently instituted the EGCC Summer Guarantee, utilizing federal CARES Act funding to ensure that residents of the Service District could attend classes during the 2020 Summer Semester without cost through a last dollar scholarship and then extended free tuition for Fall semester 2020; and

WHEREAS, the EGCC Summer Guarantee proved that there is a great demand for free college opportunities in the Service District, with enrollment increasing by 44% at the Youngstown Campus and 32% at the Steubenville Campus over the 2019 Summer Semester enrollment levels; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that increasing the higher educational attainment rate in the Service District will help ensure that the region’s economy will become stronger and more resilient in the future; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the College’s President and Deputy Chief Financial Officer to create the Eastern Gateway Spring Guarantee Program to make college accessible and affordable for all residents of Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana and Jefferson Counties by providing free tuition and fees to area residents for the Spring semester 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to cover the cost of the tuition assistance portion of the Eastern Gateway Spring Guarantee Program, the Board authorizes the College President to request the following tuition waivers from the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education effective for the Spring semester 2021:

- **\$131 per credit hour will be waived for eligible students in Jefferson County and \$137 per credit hour for eligible students in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties. This is a complete waiver of tuition (instructional and general fees).**
- **The maximum waiver will be \$3,200 per student per academic year for a projected 2,500 students over the biennium.**

⁴ *Educational Attainment, Ohio by the Numbers*, Ohio Dept. of Dev. Services, <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P7006.pdf>; *Educational Attainment by County*, Ohio Dept. of Higher Education, <https://www.ohiohighered.org/attainment/dashboard>



Resolution #2020 – 14

Resolution on Eastern Gateway Guarantee Tuition Waiver

WHEREAS, Eastern Gateway Community College's (EGCC) four county Service District has proven especially vulnerable to the effects of national and state economic decline, as industrial closures, the Great Recession and most recently, the COVID 19 Pandemic, has destabilized the area's workforce and economy; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent state unemployment rankings, all four of the Service District counties have unemployment rates of approximately 10% or above, with Trumbull, Mahoning and Jefferson Counties ranking among the top ten counties in Ohio with the highest unemployment rates¹; and

WHEREAS, while the closure of the GM Lordstown plant garnered national attention, this closing was just the latest in a decades-long trend of regional deindustrialization in which Trumbull County alone lost 62.5 percent of its manufacturing base before the Lordstown plant closed²; and

WHEREAS, along with the loss of jobs, our region has experienced a decline in housing values and an increase in poverty. The Census reported Youngstown's child poverty rates at 60.3 percent, nearly three times the state average³; and

WHEREAS, the four counties of the EGCC Service District are at greater risk to economic disruption as lower educational attainment rates make it more difficult for residents to adapt to the changing economy; and

¹ Unemployment Rankings by County, Ohio Labor Market Information, <https://ohiolmi.com/Home/Ranking?page85850=1&size85850=48>

² *Manufacturing a High-Wage Ohio, Table of Manufacturing Job Losses in Ohio*, The Century Foundation, <https://tcf.org/content/report/manufacturing-high-wage-ohio/?agreed=1&agreed=1>

³ *American Community Survey, Five Year*, Bureau of the Census, 2012-2016.



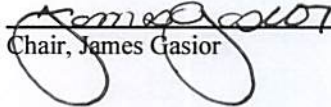
EASTERN GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Moved: Nurczyk

**Roll Call: Maiorano, Nurczyk, Meredith,
Maguschak, LaGuardia, Dennison, Coy,
Gasior**

Second: Maguschak

**Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Carried: Yes**


Chair, James Gasior

11.19.2020
Date

Angela Mastros, Secretary of the Board

Date