

Resolution Title: Reaffirmation of Democratic Access to College
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (entered into force 1/3/76 in accordance with Article 27) mandates that “Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;” and

WHEREAS, open access to college unites the interests of K-12 and college teachers because it expands the population eligible to participate in the powers and pleasures of education; and

WHEREAS, the education and life chances of a significant segment of the population – especially people of color and new immigrants – as well as the economic health and vitality of all working people are at risk as social inequality continues to widen in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this access is being threatened; and

WHEREAS, maintaining high academic standards emphatically does not mean preventing high school graduates from entering senior colleges because they are in need of certain developmental or remedial courses; and

WHEREAS, the resolution was adopted by delegates to the New York State United Teachers Resolution Assembly but is due to expire in 2005; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the New York State United Teachers strongly support the right of all high school graduates to have an equal opportunity to obtain a college education at affordable tuition (with progressive introduction of free college education), and therefore among other strategies, strongly supports the appropriateness of developmental and remedial courses in all public colleges and universities.