

**Resolution Title:** Reaffirmation of Restoring Access to the City University of New York

**Submitted by:** Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, the mission statement presented at the founding of the City College of New York (CUNY) in 1847 designated its highest role as educating “the children of the whole people;” and

WHEREAS, the City University of New York has been the national leader in providing access to higher education to a diverse population, even during periods when students were routinely excluded from other colleges on the basis of sex, religion, ethnicity, class, or race; and

WHEREAS, open access policies at the City University of New York (beginning with the Open Admissions program won in 1969 by faculty-supported, student-led direct action), have given hundreds of thousands of working-class students, students of color, women, and recent immigrants their only chance to obtain a first-rate college education; and

WHEREAS, open access policies of the City University of New York and others across the country have suffered political attacks from their inception, constantly rising tuition, the use of a single high-stakes tests as a barrier to admissions, precipitous cuts in public funding, the shrinking by half of the full-time CUNY faculty and staff, and increasing recourse by management to exploited part-time faculty; and

WHEREAS, the attack on open access has been sharply escalated by the CUNY Board of Trustees’ 1999 abolition of developmental and remedial course at the CUNY senior colleges; 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 restoration of open access and developmental courses at the City University of New York.