



**Resolution: Regarding the advancement of college, career, and citizenship readiness**

*Ratified: November 2016*

**WHEREAS**, The National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) has established that the United States has a diverse and vibrant system of K-12 and higher education with a long-standing commitment to expanding access and opportunity to all students. Yet, recent labor market projections lend a strong sense of urgency to efforts to increase the degree attainment rates at our nation's public two- and four-year institutions and further prepare students for careers. Furthermore, recent studies show that our nation's young people know less and less about American history and government and are participating in politics at lower rates.

**WHEREAS**, by 2018, nearly two-thirds of jobs in our country will require at least some college education. Simply increasing the number of individuals with any type of postsecondary education will not necessarily provide workers with what they will need. NFWL deems it imperative that policy and research join forces to develop and expand innovative policies and effective practices that will increase the number of Americans earning college degrees.

**WHEREAS**, NFWL as a national goal that every student should graduate from high school ready for college, furthermore, ready for a career and citizenship beyond. To achieve this goal,

- Education must be aligned with the needs of employers in their communities so that candidates can find jobs after completing training programs;
- Individuals must be ready to apply the knowledge gained in an academic setting to perform job-related tasks or to solve problems in the workplace;
- Rigorous academic curricula aligned with entrance requirements for public institutions of higher education in the states; and
- High-quality work-based learning components that connect students to real employment and real adults, aligned with academic standards and career pathway sequences
- Schools at the K-12 and post-secondary education levels must prioritize effective civics and history education.
- Students should graduate from high school prepared to vote, serve on juries, and otherwise participate in active self-government at the local, state, and national levels.

**WHEREAS**, a strategy for accomplishing these objectives was developed at the NFWL 2016 Annual Conference and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that members of the National Foundation for Women Legislators

- (1) will provide critical support for work-based learning aligned to college and career pathways, including, as appropriate in individual cities, the coordination of afterschool and out-of-school municipal and civic programs to incorporate work-based learning, the support of intermediary organizations to assist schools and employers with the connective infrastructure for work-based learning, and incorporating into contracts with municipal vendors a provision for high-quality work-based learning opportunities connected to linked learning pathways.
- (2) will provide critical support for effective civics and history education at the K-12 and post-secondary education levels, so our nation's young citizens are prepared to participate in active self-government at the local, state, and national levels.