**CALLING FOR FULL SUPPORT OF THE LABOR COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

Resolution #3

WHEREAS, the thirty-four community and technical colleges (CTC) of Washington serve nearly every working family in our state, providing adult basic education, professional and technical programs, supplemental instruction for state certified apprenticeship programs, academic transfer degree programs and bachelor of applied science degrees; and,

WHEREAS, nearly 60 percent of all post-secondary students in Washington are enrolled in a community or technical college; and

WHEREAS, community and technical colleges provide the high demand job training our students want and employers need. These “high demand” programs — in fields like advanced manufacturing, dental hygiene, and cybersecurity — move people into good jobs that are available right now and help our state compete in the global economy; and,

WHEREAS, an economic impact study conducted by EMSI determined that the CTC system produces a $20.5 billion annual positive impact on Washington’s economy, and

WHEREAS, the median age of Washington CTC students is 26 years old, 44 percent are employed, 28 percent are parents, and 43 percent are students of color; and

WHEREAS, Community and technical colleges offer open access to all who have the desire for higher education; and

WHEREAS, Unionized faculty and staff are the heart and soul of the colleges and deliver the education and training, provide support to employees and students and keep the campuses clean and maintained benefitting students and our state’s communities and businesses; and

WHEREAS, state funding to the community colleges has declined from 76% to 57% since 1989 on average, with most of the community colleges receiving less than 50% of their budget from the state; and

WHEREAS, College budgets were cut dramatically during the Great Recession and state funding for the colleges remains stagnant at 2007 levels, leaving faculty and other employees in the CTC system with little to show in salary growth; and

WHEREAS, chronic underfunding threatens the ability of colleges to attract and retain the excellent faculty and staff needed by students and those who hire them; and

WHEREAS, faculty of color in the CTC system only represent 14-16% of the faculty, in part due to underfunding; and

WHEREAS, in 2014-15 the percentage of part-time faculty reached 69% with 31% full-time, largely due to underfunding; and

WHEREAS, the future of Washington’s economy and workforce is directly linked to the health of the community and technical college system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council urge the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to develop a robust budget request in the 2018 and 2019 legislative sessions; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the WSLC include and prioritize a robust investment into the CTC system as part of its Shared Prosperity Agenda in the 2018 and 2019 legislative sessions.