

WHEREAS: In 1958, the Sisters of Mercy founded Maria as a sister formation college offering higher education for the community of sisters; and

WHEREAS: Under the visionary leadership of Maria College’s first president, Sister Mary Borromeo Warren, the College’s focus on solely educating sisters changed, and the college received permission to open its doors to the public in 1963 after the NYS Board of Regents granted an absolute charter to admit laypersons and members of religious congregations as students; and

WHEREAS: In 1967, a library was added to the main building at Maria College. The college then opened a preschool that served Albany families for more than 40 years. In 1968, the Associate of Applied Science programs at Maria College expanded to create a college-based nursing curriculum to include the Saint Peter’s Hospital School of Nursing students. In 1971 a Physical Therapy Assistant Program was introduced and males were accepted as students for the first time and the evening division began; and

WHEREAS: In 1975, the College purchased Marian Hall from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany and the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program began. This historic building, now known as Marian Hall, enhanced the beauty of the campus area and provides classroom, lab space, faculty office space, a student lounge, and a hall used for campus events. Known for its stunning architecture and inner courtyard, Marian Hall was awarded a designation by the Historic Albany Foundation in 1986; and

WHEREAS: The campus school building has been renamed, Mercy Hall, and was dedicated in 2017 to the Frank E. O’Brien, Jr. Student Support Center. The Maria Office of Student Affairs provides caring service to Maria students so they feel welcome, supported, and enabled to meet their goals. Support services include tutoring, pastoral care, counseling, and career guidance; and

WHEREAS: In 2018, the McAuley building on South Manning Boulevard was dedicated to expand Maria’s health profession education.

WHEREAS; Maria College was started on the principle of service to others. To this day, that principle drives everything done at the College, from the way students are supported to outreach in the surrounding community. That principle also is the hallmark of the Maria graduate, the guiding force behind an enduring commitment to improving the lives of others; and

WHEREAS: Maria College is one of the 17 institutions sponsored by the national Conference for Mercy Higher Education network, which currently enrolls more than 40,000 students throughout the United States. Maria College serves approximately 800 students and boasts a charming and intimate campus that embraces an academic atmosphere that is both timeless and contemporary. The original intent by Maria’s first president was for the institution to become a four-year college. This dream has become a reality as Maria College offers four and two year degrees and a certificate program providing new opportunities with flexible scheduling and highly affordable education for residents of the Capital Region.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy M. Sheehan, Mayor of the City of Albany, New York do hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 25, 2018 to be:

“Maria College Day”

in the City of Albany, and ask residents to join me in recognizing this milestone of Maria College being a leader in education in Albany for 60 years and wish them many more years of success.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and caused the Seal of the
City of Albany, New York to be affixed this 18th
day of April, 2018.

M A Y O R