

*Excellence Every Day.*

One Hospital Drive  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570.522.2000

www.evanhospital.com



February 22, 2021

Honorable Preston Boop, Chair  
Honorable Jeff Reber  
Honorable Stacy Richards  
Union County Board of Commissioners  
Union County Government Center  
155 N 15<sup>th</sup> St  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Dear Commissioners Boop, Reber, and Richards,

Evangelical Community Hospital fully supports the Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project's vision for a dedicated independent regional community college that will serve as an educational and economic hub in Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties.

A new community college that awards accredited diplomas, certificates, and associate degrees means students will be able to earn stackable credits that can stand alone or transfer to a four-year university or college, without needing to commute long distances or incur debt.

As the county's largest healthcare employer, we rely on a pipeline of qualified employees to provide exceptional healthcare, accessible to all, in the safest and most compassionate atmosphere possible to build a healthy community. A regional community college with strong clinical course offerings has the potential to serve as a gateway to recruitment and retention in high demand areas like phlebotomy, medical assisting, surgical technology, health information, and nursing.

For \$1.14 per household per month, a new community college will provide a path forward benefitting individuals, families, communities, and the region. According to key statistics collected throughout the project planning,

- 78% of survey respondents from the Susquehanna Valley support a new community college;
- Tuition for the new community college is about \$5,500 per year for a full-time student, which for most students will be covered by PELL Grant funding;
- For every \$1.00 invested by local taxpayers, \$3.50 will be returned; and
- The regional financial impact over 10 years is estimated to be \$78.5 million

I ask you to strongly consider signing a formal Resolution of Sponsorship for a new independent Susquehanna Valley community college as described in the PA Code Title 24 Article XIX, so we can bring this asset to our region, strengthen our workforce, retain talent and youth, and have a profound, lasting community and economic impact.

Respectfully yours,

  
Kendra A. Aucker  
President/CEO