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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Community Colleges Support Skills2Compete**

- Maryland's sixteen community colleges applaud Governor Martin O'Malley's decision to launch the national Skills2Compete initiative in Maryland.
- We are ready and willing to help accomplish the goal of increasing the skills of Maryland's workforce by 20% by 2012.
- Jobs in the middle skills, those that require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree, make up half of Maryland's labor market. **Maryland's community colleges are the places to go for training to meet the middle skill labor demand in Maryland.**
- Middle skill occupations are the backbone of Maryland's economy. They are jobs in infrastructure and in Maryland's economic growth and cannot be outsourced; they are jobs in health care, auto mechanics, computer technology, maintenance, and construction.
- To maintain a strong economy, Maryland must invest in a skilled workforce through adult education, career and technical education, and general academic preparation, all of which are available through local community colleges.

MACC is a voluntary, non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors composed of the president and one designated trustee from each member college and supported by an Annapolis-based staff. The association's mission is to act as an advocate and resource for Maryland's public community colleges. For more information about MACC and Maryland's community colleges, visit [www.mdacc.org](http://www.mdacc.org) or call (410) 974-8117.

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