

## Zimpher: A community college deserves a 2016 debate



Nancy Zimpher. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)



By CONOR SKELDING 7:12 p.m. | Apr. 1, 2015

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State University of New York chancellor Nancy Zimpher believes it's time that a community college host a presidential debate—so why not SUNY's own Rockland Community College?

R.C.C. and 15 other colleges and universities nationwide have applied to host one of 2016's four general election debates, POLITICO [reported](#) today.

"Given increased focus nationally on the value of community colleges and the critical role of these institutions in supporting workforce development and driving the economy, I believe strongly that the timing is also right for the country's first-ever presidential debate at a community college," Zimpher wrote to the Commission on Presidential Debates in a letter of support for R.C.C.'s application, dated March 25.

President Barack Obama has praised community colleges' job training. (He also applauded the City University of New York's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs at a meeting at the White House last year.)

One other community college has applied for a 2016 debate: Texas' Houston Community College.

And one other New York college has applied: Long Island's Hofstra University.

Read Zimpher's letter here: <http://bit.ly/1xA0Ibf>

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