Ms. MENG: I rise today along with my colleague, The Honorable Joseph Crowley, to recognize the 80th anniversary of Queens College, an institution of higher education in Queens that provides an exemplary education to nearly 20,000 students annually. Queens College opened its doors on October 11, 1937, and ushered in the first class of students to the first public college in Queens. On the first day of classes, Queens College President Paul Klapper remarked, “We are the pioneers of a new institution. We have no history to look back to, but we can look forward to progress.”

Mr. Speaker, I believe that President Klapper would be proud to see the remarkable progress that Queens College has made. The Princeton Review has continuously commended the college for offering a world-class education by an illustrious faculty for an affordable price. It is no wonder that it places in the top 1% of colleges that successfully move its students from the bottom-fifth income distribution percentile to the top-fifth income distribution percentile. In its eighty years, 160,000 students have become alumni. Some have earned Pulitzer Prizes, Emmy Awards, becoming CEOs, or achieved scientific breakthroughs. As an alumnus himself, I know that Congressman Crowley is proud to join me in commending Queens College for its steadfast commitment in ensuring that students reach their potential.

Queens College has not only cultivated a reputation for investing in student success, but also for being one of the most diverse colleges in the country. Students who are currently enrolled are from 170 countries and speak over 110 languages. Queens College offers 69 undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences. In its eighty years of operations, the college has become a cultural hub for students to pursue and achieve academic success in Queens.

I am proud to stand with Congressman Crowley to commemorate Queens College’s 80th anniversary. I look forward to seeing what the future will bring for this trailblazing beacon of higher education. I yield the remainder of my time.