President’s Report to the AACC Board of Directors
April 2010

Strategic Action Area I: National and International Recognition and Advocacy for Community Colleges

1. Amidst much political and policy drama, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) was approved by Congress on March 25 as part of H.R. 4872, FY 2010 budget reconciliation legislation. H.R. 4872 also includes amendments to the massive health care reform legislation. In both chambers of Congress, the votes were almost exclusively party line. The legislation has now been signed into law by President Obama.

2. The legislation provides $2 billion for the Community College and Career Training Grant Program, a new Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program that was created in last year’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) but was never funded. The reconciliation bill provides $500 million per year for FY 2011–2014 to fund training and education programs at community colleges and other institutions that serve the needs of TAA–eligible workers. These grants will be awarded competitively, but one or more institutions in each state will receive at least 0.5%, or $2.5 million, each year. The program should fund a wide range of training initiatives. AACC will be working closely with the Department of Labor (DOL) to ensure that the program is of maximum benefit to member institutions.

3. The same legislation ensures a maximum Pell grant of $5,550, scheduled to take effect this July 1. For award years 2013–2014 through 2017–2018, the bill provides annual mandatory increases in the maximum award equal to the Consumer Price Index. The legislation also provides $13.5 billion to help address a large shortfall in the program that has developed due to booming enrollment increases that have resulted in more students qualifying for grants and many qualifying for larger grants. This infusion of resources will help Congress avoid making substantial cuts in the Pell Grant maximum in future years.

4. The bill also terminates the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program and requires all institutions to move to the Direct Loan (DL) program by July 1, 2010. This move is expected to save the federal government an estimated $61 billion over the next 10 years. The legislation requires the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to institutions making the switch to DL, including $50 million for this purpose. The legislation also amends the Income-Based Repayment program to cap student loan payments for new borrowers after July 1, 2014, at 10% of adjusted income, from the current 15%, and to forgive remaining balances after 20 years of repayment, versus the current 25 years.
5. There is $2.55 billion of additional funding provided by this legislation for minority-serving institutions over the next 10 years, continuing funding originally provided in the 2007 College Cost Reduction and Access Act. This includes annual grants of $100 million to Hispanic-serving institutions, $85 million to historically Black colleges and universities, $15 million to predominantly Black institutions, $30 million to tribal colleges and universities, $15 million to Alaska and Hawaiian Native institutions, $5 million to Asian American and Pacific Islander institutions, and $5 million to Native American nontribal–serving institutions.

6. The program for the 2010 AACC Convention in Seattle, April 17-20, is set, and final preparations for the event and for the AACC Board and related meetings are near completion. This is an important time for community colleges, and the convention will address many significant issues. The keynote speaker for the Opening Session is Carlos Gutierrez, former CEO and Chairman of the Board at Kellogg Company and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Presidents Academy Hail & Farewell Luncheon speaker is Marc Morial, the president and CEO of the National Urban League and former two-term mayor of New Orleans; and the closing plenary speaker is Melinda French Gates, co-chair and trustee, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

7. Convention registrations are currently being processed and appear to be coming in slightly above the pace for 2009. Hotel rooms are over 80 percent sold out, which means there will be no hotel attrition charges assessed against the association. The Exhibit Hall is sold out, and a half dozen interested vendors are on a wait list. Since the Exhibit Hall is such an important part of convention revenue, the association encourages AACC Board members to visit the exhibit hall early and often to express gratitude to our supporting vendors.

8. A $100,000 grant from Grainger will support outreach in 2010 to promote the value of careers in the skilled trades. This effort falls under the broader scope of the company’s Tools for Tomorrow program, begun four years ago to provide scholarships to community college students studying in skilled trades programs (e.g., electrical technician, HVAC, and construction). To date, close to $300,000 in scholarships has been awarded to promising students. The new grant is in addition to Grainger’s ongoing support through the AACC Corporate Program, at the Leader level ($100,000 and up).

**Strategic Action Area II: Student Access, Learning and Success**

1. Work on the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) in Community Colleges is moving forward. Members of three working groups (Student Persistence and Outcomes; Workforce, Economic, and Community Development; and Communications and Engagement) met March 8-9 to begin to develop accountability measures. Input from diverse professional and institutional perspectives resulted in rich and productive discussions at the working group meetings. The VFA Steering Committee met on March
31 to review this preliminary work and address some of the overarching themes. Past Board Chair Keith Miller is now chair of the steering committee. Member colleges and other interested groups and individuals will have opportunities to participate in several scheduled VFA public hearings and other events; including at AACC commission meetings; an interactive spotlight session at the AACC Convention; and at upcoming meetings of ACCT, the Association for Institutional Research, and the National Community College Benchmarking Project. Further information is available at www.aacc.nche.edu/vfa.

2. AACC is wrapping up the 2010 Achieving the Dream (ATD) Strategy Institute and looking toward 2011. A total of 1,000 people attended this year’s Strategy Institute, with 245 participants participating in pre-institute workshops that included developmental education and institutional research. This is a 4 percent growth in workshop attendance since 2009 and an overall registration growth of 150 people. Post-institute evaluations were extremely positive, with most respondents scoring it in the good to excellent range, using scale of 1 to 4. AACC will continue to use evaluation feedback on session content, logistics and speakers as we work toward Strategy Institute 2011. Articles about ATD have been posted by AACC in the Community College Times and on the ATD Web site. AACC staff presented a highly-regarded spotlight session on service learning, and three workshops on understanding data that also were highly rated by college participants. AACC launched the beta version of the new ATD data analysis tool and has received excellent feedback on its usefulness. AACC staff members continue to fine-tune this new, more powerful, and more intuitive data tool, which will be made available to all ATD colleges this spring. ATD became a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization in March. AACC staff serves on the ATD Continuous Improvement and Innovation Council. AACC will host an ATD Presidents Breakfast at the Seattle convention, where the focus will be lessons from the ATD Leader Colleges. See www.achievingthedream.org.

3. In February, AACC convened a conference call meeting of a working group comprising representatives from partner organizations (ACCT, Center for Community College Student Engagement, League for Innovation, National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development and Phi Theta Kappa) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to further discussions about how we can work together to advance the community college student completion agenda and encourage our respective members to join us. Two primary tasks were identified: (1) a draft of a commitment/call to action statement that all members could endorse and (2) a draft outline of a possible toolkit to assist members of partner organizations in understanding the issues and identifying ways to take action that would lead to higher degree and certificate completion rates. AACC will offer convention sessions that highlight the completion agenda.

4. The AACC Minority Male Student Success database (www.aacc.nche.edu/mmss), launched in January as an interactive Web site, has drawn positive attention from ATD
colleges and other institutions. Member colleges are invited to upload information on programs that focus on access, recruitment, mentoring, retention, and success of minority male community college students. An informational flyer about the database has been developed for targeted distribution and posting on the Web.

5. In the fall of 2009, AACC and Phi Theta Kappa launched the Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarships. This five-year program is made possible with support from Medical Education Technologies, Inc. (METI) and L-3 Communications. METI is also a Corporate Program donor at the Advocate level. Last December, the Frank Lanza Memorial Scholarship initiative awarded 25, $1,000 scholarships to community college students enrolled in second-year health-care programs. Most of the award recipients are enrolled in registered nursing programs. Three recipients are studying respiratory care. A panel of independent judges selected the students from 100 applicants from community colleges in 14 states.

6. AACC has published a new project brief, *Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning, 2009-2012*, describing the eight mentor colleges funded through its grant from Learn and Serve America. See the brief at www.aacc.nche.edu/resources/aaccprograms/horizons/Pages/publications.aspx. The document will be distributed in print at the AACC convention.

7. On March 5, AACC opened a national grant competition for its Horizons service learning project. AACC will award eight, one-year grants of $3,000 each to community colleges for service learning in new media/Web 2.0 strategies on environmental education. Colleges will receive training and technical assistance from experienced service learning mentors. This initiative is supported by Learn and Serve America. Proposals were due April 9, 2010; the funding period is July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011. The request for applications was posted at www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/horizons/Pages/grants.aspx.

8. The AACC Plus 50 Initiative continues to make progress in 2010, and staff plans to continue reaching out to additional community colleges, again pairing existing grantee colleges with new affiliates in a one-to-one relationship. Upcoming efforts include:
   a. *A Quick -Start Action Planner* is in development. This Web-based self-assessment tool will aid community colleges in planning and implementing a Plus 50 program. Through a series of questions regarding key implementation actions, community colleges will be able to identify the action steps needed to successfully implement a program.
   b. *A Peer to Peer Ambassador Program*, which will involve grantee colleges serving as Plus 50 Initiative Peer-to-Peer Ambassadors to new community colleges, will also be launched this year. Grantee colleges will share information via telephone calls and invite new colleges to join with other colleges in national discussions on
topics of common interest. The Peer-to-Peer Ambassadors program will facilitate mentoring between grantee colleges and other community colleges.

9. Three colleges involved in AACC’s one-year project, Make It Personal: College Completion, are currently developing curricular content to help students address pregnancy planning, prevention, and healthy relationships as a way to improve student retention and success. The grantees are Chattahoochee Technical College, Ga.; Hennepin Technical College, Minn.; and Mesa Community College, Ariz. The MIPCC project is funded by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy; see www.aacc.nche.edu/mipcc and www.thencc.org.

10. The 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, announced February 25, included top honors for Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC), N.J. RVCC was the only community college to receive the Honor Roll’s Presidential Award, which is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service learning, and civic engagement. The Honor Roll recognized more than 700 institutions nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service learning programs. Forty-seven of the 104 community colleges receiving the 2009 designation have received service learning grants from AACC in the past 15 years. See the complete list of designees at www.cns.gov/honorroll.

11. AACC is offering workshops on service learning and civic engagement in three ATD states this spring. Faculty and administrators at participating ATD colleges are invited to attend. Lake Michigan College, Mich., will host on May 21, and Roxbury Community College, Maine, on May 24. National Park Community College, Ark., held its workshop on February 26.

12. AACC, in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF), will host the 17th annual Advanced Technological Education (ATE) National Principal Investigators Conference on October 27-29, 2010, in Washington, D.C. With the theme “ATE Student Success: Building a Diverse and Entrepreneurial Workforce,” the conference will focus on the importance of developing a diverse pool of technicians who are well-prepared to succeed in the 21st century workplace. Expected attendees include more than 800 community college technician educators and their ATE project partners, including representatives from four-year institutions and business/industry. Approximately 60 community college students will attend and present at the conference’s special ATE Student Showcase session. See www.aacc.nche.edu/ateprogram.

13. NSF will host its 2010 Community College Day Celebration at its Arlington, Va., headquarters on May 6. AACC President George Boggs will be the keynote speaker.
14. A new project brief highlighting AACC’s 2008-2010 MentorLinks grant program is now available in print and online at www.aacc.nche.edu/mentorlinks. The brief profiles mentee colleges’ achievements in STEM program development. Their work to date has produced seven new associate degree programs, 13 new certificate programs, 48 new courses, multiple partnerships and collaborations, and the leveraging of support for more than $830,000 in additional grant funding in the areas of energy assessment and management, renewable energy, biotechnology, GIS, green construction technology, cyber security, welding technology, and laboratory technician training.

15. AACC continues to serve as a core advisor to the ATE-TV project (www.ate-tv.org), which is designed to enhance awareness of STEM and recruit students to STEM fields. The online episodes provide access to emerging technological information; offer student, company, and career profiles; and link through social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

**Strategic Action Area III: Leadership Development**

1. Planning is well underway for the next Future Leaders Institutes (FLIs), which will be held June 27-July 1, 2010, in Newport Beach, Calif. FLI is the traditional leadership program for mid-level administrators aspiring to up in community college administration, and FLI/Advanced is for upper-level administrators hoping to move soon into a community college presidency. The January FLI/WDI held in conjunction with AACC’s Workforce Development Institute, like the 2009 event, received highly positive evaluations. Both FLI and FLI/Advanced have been extremely successful; 600 participants have come through FLI and FLI/Advanced since 2003, and more than 275 have since made leadership advances in their careers. A total of 55 FLI alumni have become community college presidents. As impressive as these numbers are, AACC is constantly looking for ways to attract a more diverse pool of attendees, and we are developing a robust marketing plan to help meet that goal. We invite all AACC Board members to encourage diverse leadership development by providing support for mid- and upper-level staff to participate in FLI and FLI/Advanced. See www.aacc.nche.edu/FLI.

2. The AACC Presidents Academy Summer Institute will be held in San Francisco, Calif., July 17-20, 2010. The program includes realistic case study scenarios and sessions on Presidential Relationships, Process Redesign, Absorbing and Adapting to Institutional Shock, Fund Raising, Board/CEO Relations, What We Can Learn About World Class Customer Service, Community Colleges As a New Enterprise, and Achieving Balance. Registration is open at www.aacc.nche.edu/pasi. AACC Board Members are invited and encouraged to attend this premiere professional development event.

3. Staff will begin work soon to prepare the application for the 2011 Leah Meyer Austin Institutional Student Success Leadership Award. This opportunity, open only to colleges actively affiliated with ATD, comes with a $25,000 cash award.
Strategic Action Area IV: Economic and Workforce Development

1. The 2010 Workforce Development Institute (WDI) in St. Petersburg, Fla., Jan. 27-30, was well attended, with 381 registrants and double the 2009 number of corporate sponsorships. The event included two additional large meetings prior to the main meeting. The theme of WDI 2010, “The Stimulus and Beyond”, brought speakers and participants to reflect on the reality of the current economy and the future role of community colleges in workforce and economic development.

2. AACC has been funded to help launch the Goldman Sachs Foundation-funded 10,000 Small Businesses Initiative, beginning with an initial program at La Guardia Community College. During the pilot phase, AACC will help encourage community college participation in developing the programs and provide information for colleges to become involved as the project expands.

3. The 20 sites funded through AACC’s Walmart Foundation-funded Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative have formed a strong cohort of primarily rural economic and workforce programs. The first quarter has been spent identifying program sustainability opportunities for the colleges through alternative sources of funding, particularly connecting sites focused on green jobs with business incubators. With assistance from AACC’s Center for Workforce and Economic Development (CWED), sites are applying for federal Community-Based Job Training Grant (CBJTG) funding and coordinating with Small Business Development Centers.

4. AACC continues to work with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to expand delivery of the airline crew member self-defense program through the addition of new community college locations, increased outreach efforts, and additional certified instructors. The program began with five sites and has grown rapidly. With the addition of new college sites, we now have 23 locations. In addition, the present sites often run satellite programs in nearby cities to respond to crew member requests. Recently, TSA received authority to train air crews from charter and cargo fleets from United Parcel Service (UPS) and Federal Express. The inclusion of these new carriers has resulted in the addition of two new sites being added and two more hub airports being covered. AACC has expanded our outreach efforts and in the crew member lounges to include Carrier Health Fairs and is organizing a train the trainer program for May 2010 to certify new instructors to meet the needs of site growth and program expansion.

5. AACC is working with its Sustainability Task Force, under the leadership of Jerry Weber, to focus goals and objectives. The Task Force will meet at the AACC Convention in Seattle to plan for a June 2010 retreat.

6. Through Kresge Foundation funding, the Building a Green Workforce: Charting a Green Course for Community Colleges initiative is officially underway. A key component of this project is the development of a sustainable economic resource center, in conjunction with ecoAmerica and with support from Surdna Foundation. Surdna and Kresge will co-
7. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation funded CWED to conduct a scan of community colleges with programs in small business incubation, community-based entrepreneurship training, and the capacity to take some elements of this work into a virtual space. The “commercialization of community colleges” concept was researched by CWED together with the National Association of Community Colleges for Entrepreneurship (NACCE) and three member colleges: Mott Community College, Mich., Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Wis. and White Mountain Community College, N.H. These groups were convened at WDI for a pre-conference panel, general workshop, and meeting with the funder. The research work ended March 31, 2010, and CWED is preparing an expanded proposal.

8. AACC made several presentations at the National Association of Workforce Boards Forum, including helping to conduct a pre-conference on how community colleges and WIBs can be better partners. AACC also presented with the U.S. Department of Labor at the National Association of Counties conference. The Association continues to explore partnerships with national organizations including AARP, National Council of La Raza, and Goodwill Industries International.

9. AACC continues to underscore the value of associate degree nursing (ADRN) education to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded Future of Nursing study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), which will make recommendations to policy makers that will likely impact nursing education across programs. AACC has attended and urged community college advocates to attend and testify at the IOM forums on primary care in Philadelphia, Pa., in December and on education in Houston, Texas, in February. For the Houston hearing, AACC drafted testimony in response to topics: “What, Where, and How We Should Teach Nursing,” at which Dr. Boggs had an opportunity to provide testimony.

10. AACC and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching hosted a March 4 meeting in Washington, D.C., that included nursing shareholders representing all levels of nursing education. At the meeting the lead author of the recent Carnegie nursing education report stated that she regretted her recommendation to increase the requirement for entry into nursing practice to a baccalaureate. The group instead focused on expansion of opportunities for all nurses to access further education. Meeting participants charged the nursing organization attendees—the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (NOADN), the National League for Nursing, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing—to take the group forward to reconvene for further discussion.

11. AACC continues efforts to provide the NOADN—an AACC-affiliated council whose membership comprises associate degree nursing programs, directors, and faculty—with data and resources to strengthen its ability to represent community colleges. The AACC Director of Health Professions Policy continues to serve on the NOADN Board, participating in both board and annual meetings. In February, AACC arranged a meeting for AACC staff with representatives of NOADN and the National League for Nursing—
the only national nursing organization representing all levels of nursing education—to begin alignment of efforts to more effectively support associate degree nursing education.

12. AACC continues relationship-building efforts with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)—a tremendously generous nursing and allied health professions education funder. In December, AACC met with the Building Human Capital program director to explore collaborative opportunities between the RWJF and AACC. AACC continues to serve on the Planning Group for the RWJF-funded Inaugural Conference Enhancing Academic Nursing planned for fall 2010 and in March presented at a joint meeting of the RWJF funded Jobs for the Future and Jobs to Careers programs.

13. To demonstrate the value of associate degree health professions education, AACC staff met in December with the National Center for the Analysis of Health Workforce Data and agreed to serve on its advisory board. Also, in December, AACC collaborated with the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies to focus a Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)-funded rural health study and to present at the National Rural Health Association annual meeting. At its most recent public meeting, AACC encouraged the National Advisory Council Nursing Education and Practice (NACNEP) to: 1) amend its current nursing workforce objective recommending 60 percent of associate degree RNs (ADRNs) obtain bachelor’s degree in nursing to an alternative recommendation that a sufficient number of ADRNs achieve Master’s in the Science of Nursing degrees to provide the nation with nursing faculty, and 2) include community colleges as sites in recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Health to expand Nurse Managed Health Centers (NMHC). NMHCs provide colleges with clinical sites, and Health Care Reform has authorized new funding authority to expand NMHCs. NACNEP makes recommendations to Congress on nursing education and practice.

14. AACC continues relationship building with DOL to ensure that DOL staff understands community college nursing and allied health program efforts (and needs) to address workforce challenges. AACC participated in a December DOL Employment Training Administration (ETA) conference focused on developing a new grant competition to provide resources supporting virtual learning programs. By request, AACC also continues to offer technical support to better position colleges to compete in DOL competitions.

15. AACC continues to strengthen its relationship with HRSA, which is important to community colleges as the administrator of Public Health Service Act nursing and allied health education grants. The agency also makes recommendations to Congress on health professions policy and collects national data on health professions workforce. AACC met with the HRSA Director of Nursing to discuss securing two National Advisory Council Nursing Education and Practice seats for community college representatives, conducted an informal survey of NOADN members to collect and provide data about Certified Nurse Assistant programs, and provided data demonstrating the institutional cost of offer nursing education programs to the director.

16. Additionally, over the past several months, AACC has also worked with HRSA staff to determine information to be extrapolated about associate degree nursing from federal
nursing data.

17. AACC continues efforts with the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to make expanding associate degree public health programs a Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) goal, which would position community colleges to receive federal support. (HP2020 will serve as guidance for DHHS funding priorities for the next decade.) At a February meeting at DHHS, the Assistant Secretary for Health overseeing the Office of Public Health and Science offered support for the HP2020 objective, and two national public health employer associations agreed to draft public positions in support of the objective.

Strategic Action Area V: International and Intercultural Education

1. Following appointment of the new Interim Associate Vice President for International Programs and Services in January, AACC has participated in a series of key meetings and other activities:

   a. Multiple meetings with the Education Attaché at the Indonesian Embassy in order to inform him of the U.S. community college model; discuss Indonesian student recruitment to U.S. community colleges; and encourage partnering opportunities between US community colleges and Indonesian institutions of further and higher education.

   b. Provided an overview of the U.S. community college system and AACC to U.S. State Department sponsored international visitors.

   c. Began discussion with the Forum on Education Abroad, leading to an agreement to solicit more community involvement. The Forum will exhibit at AACC’s Seattle convention and provided complimentary registration and exhibit space at its national conference, an important event attended by over 900 registrants. Connections were made with community colleges, Forum board members, U.S. Department of State officials and other key stakeholders.

   d. Met with representatives from Ireland’s Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology to discuss student and faculty exchange programs.

   e. Co-hosted and presented at the Institute of International Education (IIE)/AACC Study Abroad Workshop in Houston, Texas, during which best practices in study abroad programs were discussed. Staff used the occasion to explore how AACC may enhance its services to members.

   f. Multiple meetings with Sabine O’Hara, Executive Director of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) and Vice President of IIE, to identify Fulbright Program opportunities for community colleges that are interested in internationalizing their campuses or enhancing their global perspective cultures.

   g. Scheduled meetings with State Department representatives to discuss community colleges’ challenges in recruiting international students. David Franz, the Deputy Chief of the Post Liaison Division, has committed to working with AACC in assisting community colleges to overcome this challenge.

   h. AACC attended the annual Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) conference and Board meeting in Houston, Texas; participated in the
Community College Initiative (CCI) Forum; and provided AACC initiative updates to the CCID Board of Directors and the International Education Directors.

i. Keynoted the Building Bridges for Economic Recovery and Growth Workshop for the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. Served as the U.S. liaison for the UK-US Higher Education Partnerships Fund Initiative (PMI2). As liaison, AACC solicited U.S. Expressions of Interest to partner with UK FE institutions in the area of entrepreneurship education. AACC reviewed over 50 EOI’s and recommended that 12 U.S. community colleges be invited to an April 2010 contact meeting in Washington, D.C.

j. Worked closely with Higher Education for Development (HED) to identify community college workforce leaders and build a USAID consulting team tasked with advising USAID regarding a job skills initiative in Mexico.

k. Met with Dr. Maha Kamel, Director of the Egyptian Cultural and Educational Bureau, to discuss potential partnerships between Egyptian institutions and U.S. community colleges.

2. The Vocational Education Leadership Training Program (VELT), a training program for 25 presidents and vice presidents of Chinese vocational and technical institutions, administered by AACC and China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and financed by the Chinese Ministry of Education, will take place April 18 – May 15, 2010. The training for each group will be accomplished over a four-week period, beginning with an orientation session at Highline Community College (April 21-22), followed by campus visits to AACC member institutions. The U.S. community colleges provide the trainees with lectures and seminars and ongoing opportunities to job shadow the president and other senior administrators. The program concludes with an evaluation session to take place at AACC’s office in Washington, D.C., on May 13.

3. In March, AACC opened online registration for its international publication, the 2010-2011 Profiles of U.S. Community Colleges: A Guide for International Students, and accompanying Web site, which has now been re-programmed to enhance functionality. The Web site also will have a new URL – www.aacc.nche.edu/study-in-america to create a stronger cognitive connection with the association, a direct connection to the main AACC Web site, increased Web site traffic, and a higher ranking search result.

4. ACE and AACC have completed the first year of organizing and implementing activities for their South African USAID Mission three year/$6.7 million contract: Partnership for Skills Development Program. ACE and AACC are in the process of creating the budget and operation plan for year two of the program.

5. AACC, working with its’ BIBB German partner, has helped craft a common technical education agenda in concurrence with both the Office of Adult and Vocational Education and the German Ministry of Education. The German Ministry will host in Bonn a joint
activity planning meeting in early May that will focus on the level of green jobs being created by emerging transportation propulsion systems.

6. The World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) is planning a World Congress to be held in Birmingham, England, just prior to the Association of Colleges (AoC) annual conference. The AACC President is the current chair of the WFCP Board. Martin Riordan, CEO of Australia’s TAFE Directors, and Deputy Chair of the WFCP Board, is being hosted by AACC for the next several months, and will be researching and working together with CWED on global workforce development at community college.

**Operation**

1. Less than half-way into a new year, the AACC Corporate Program has secured $458,500 and met its 2010 goal. The program currently enlists 42 corporations and businesses. Compared to last year, the 2010 figures represent over a 12 percent increase in corporate donations and over 9 percent increase in the number of corporate contributors.

2. Over half of AACC’s 2010 corporate donors are also convention exhibitors. Their booth fees represent nearly $40,000 in additional corporate revenues funneled directly to the annual convention.

3. The Ford Foundation grant that supported AACC’s Director of External Outreach for 36 months ended December 31; however, many of the functions and responsibilities of that position have been incorporated into the association’s infrastructure through the appointment of the first Director of Advancement (DOA). During the first quarter, the new director worked closely with AACC’s Workforce and Economic Development Department to develop a proposal to the Goldman Sachs Foundation to support the 10,000 Small Business Initiative. The DOA provided support to the CEO as AACC worked with a committee of community college experts to explore development of a Community College Online Education Consortium.

4. Effective January 1, AACC’s Finance, HR, IT, Web Development, Member and Administrative Services areas were combined under the Chief Financial Officer’s responsibilities. In addition, a centralized Database Operations function was formed to coordinate services provided to Membership and all of AACC’s major meeting functions, including participant registration.

5. The Human Resources office has managed the hiring of several key positions since the beginning of the year, including the Interim Associate Vice President of International Programs & Services, the Manager of the Voluntary Framework for Accountability initiative, the Member Services Associate, the Registration Services Assistant, the Research Associate, the Human Resources Assistant, and the Director of Finance/Controller.
6. The Finance Department is completing implementation of a new on-line payroll system allowing employees and supervisors to enter and approve time allocations remotely at the end of each semi-monthly pay period. The new system, when fully implemented, is designed to improve AACC’s compliance with federal expense reporting standards. The 2009 audit is underway, with the majority of auditor field work occurring in April and May.

7. In December 2009, AACC’s investment portfolio was transferred out of the Common Fund to Charles Schwab and Company, in accordance with board action taken at the November meeting. AACC’s newly appointed outsource Chief Investment Officer, the Capital Advisory Group is now managing the portfolio and a revised Investment Policy Statement (IPS) will be presented to the Board at the April meeting in Seattle. Significant changes are being made to the IPS, moving it in the direction of a more conservative risk profile.

8. The IT Department just completed an intensive period of hardware and software implementation called a “refresh.” Effectively, most of AACC’s servers have been upgraded or replaced and, simultaneously, installed in a new computer facility shared by AACC landlord, the American Council on Education. This was a huge undertaking, performed almost entirely by AACC’s two-person, in-house IT staff. AACC is currently weighing alternative solutions to managing its network operations, including third party outsourcing. Following the convention, the IT group will be deploying new computers to several staff members as part of its ongoing equipment rotation / replacement plan.

9. The Web Development group is heavily involved in upgrading AACC’s Web product delivery infrastructure. This work makes it physically possible to transition hard copy publications into Web-based products, move our meeting registration processes from paper to on-line, and promote AACC’s many products through increasingly viral communications to a greater number of existing and potential customers. The recent conversion of the CC Times to on-line delivery is just one example of the support provided from this group.

10. The Member Services Department just completed a very successful billing and collection cycle related to annual dues and voluntary solicitations for the Nursing and Allied Health Initiative. They are now providing research and defining alternatives to support the 2011 dues cycle. Due to large increases in enrollment at most community colleges, important decisions need to be made soon regarding the member dues schedule for the coming year.

11. The Administrative Services Department just completed the purchase and installation of furniture and other equipment in AACC’s conference rooms and in-office food preparation and eating areas. As in the case of the IT expenditures mentioned above, these purchases were part of AACC’s ongoing equipment rotation / replacement plan. This approach avoids the likelihood of very large expenditures occurring in any given year.