

**President's Report to the AACC Board of Directors
November 2009**

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

1. AACC continues its intensive work on President Obama's "American Graduation Initiative (AGI)," unveiled at Macomb Community College in July. The President's plan places an unprecedented focus on community colleges and has galvanized the community college community. The AGI was given legislation form in H.R. 3221, the "Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009." The legislation was approved by the House of Representatives on Sept. 17 by a vote of 253 to 171, largely along party lines. H.R. 3221 is budget "reconciliation" legislation that ends the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program, in which banks provide loan capital, and instead requires all colleges to move into the Direct Lending program, administered by the Department of Education. H.R. 3221 also provides \$8.8 billion over 10 years for programs directly benefitting community colleges. Programs include grants to increase graduation rates and meet other federal goals, and to upgrade facilities. AACC strongly supported this legislation and communicated that support to all House offices.
2. AACC has focused considerable resources to influence the Senate version of H.R. 3221, with primary emphasis on altering the problematic features of the House bill. These include limiting the second round of the education and training grants (to "systematically reform" community colleges) to states only; requiring a 1:1 match of grant recipients; and limiting facilities grants (as opposed to loan subsidies) to only those colleges using capital campaigns to generate non-federal funds. AACC has asked its members to reflect its priorities in legislative contacts with the Senate and hosted a Webinar on Sept. 3 to reinforce those efforts. Unfortunately, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has yet to act on its legislation and may not do so until well into November. To make a long parliamentary story short, this is because of the education reconciliation's legislation link to health care reform. AACC remains confident that the education legislation containing the AGI will be cleared by Congress by the end of 2009. AACC is already to working to ensure that all interested member colleges are ready to apply for grants.
3. AACC and community colleges across the country received a major shock this summer when, the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations slashed the NSF's Advanced Technological Program by 57%, to \$29 million, in its Fiscal Year 2010 funding bill. The committee report accompanying the bill stated that the program was not appropriately located at NSF. AACC responded immediately to this dire, unanticipated threat and worked to ensure that the Senate, which had yet to act, funded the program at the \$64 million level proposed by President Obama, a \$12 million increase above the current level. AACC continues to lobby aggressively on this program to ensure that when the House and Senate versions of the bill are reconciled the highest funding level possible can be achieved. The conference will occur after Senate action.

4. The House has approved its FY 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation. In addition to boosting the FY 2010 Pell Grant maximum by \$200, to \$5,550 for the award year that starts July 1, 2010, the legislation provides \$20 million in increases for both the TRIO and GEAR UP programs. The bill also calls for additional funding for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other minority-serving institutions. The Strengthening Institutions program also received a \$4 million increase. Earlier this year, President Obama proposed in his FY 2010 budget to replace the Community-Based Job Training Grants program with a new Career Pathways Innovation Fund. Community colleges would continue to have a central role, but the focus would shift to career pathways. While the House spending bill includes \$130 million for this new Career Pathways program, it also stipulates that a minimum of \$65 million from these funds be directed toward “competitive grants to community colleges and partnerships with local adult education providers to train nurses, medical technicians and others for skilled jobs in the health industry.” On the Senate side, the Appropriations Committee has approved its FY 2010 Labor-HHS-ED legislation and generally funds programs of interest at FY 2009 levels (though the Pell Grant maximum will rise to \$5,550), including the Career Pathways program. However, the Departments of Labor and Education and most other federal agencies are currently being funded via “continuing resolution,” and it is not clear when final funding bills will be enacted.

5. Following completion of the McGill communications analysis last year, AACC is moving forward with a strategic plan that will evolve and reposition the ways the association communicates with and informs members and other key constituencies. The following activities are part of a three-year plan that will better integrate AACC communications efforts, better serve members and, ultimately improve AACC’s revenue balance:
 - The *Community College Times* online site has improved functionality (RSS feeds, e-mail delivery) and increased frequency of posting new stories and other content.
 - A vendor has been selected and steps taken to have a digital edition of *Community College Journal* operational by January 2010.
 - The cross-departmental Content Hub has met regularly and devised ways to leverage content across all platforms.
 - Re-design for the *AACC Letter* is underway and will be implemented early next year with new and more diverse content.
 - A new Community College Press book on fundraising for community colleges – *Getting the Green* -- is off press and has generated early interest. Two additional titles on *Reinventing the Open Door* and *Board Governance* will be off-press by year end.
 - AACC is exploring with CASE and CRD the feasibility of a webinar series on key advancement topics.

6. Media coverage of AACC and community colleges continues at an unprecedented level. AACC has generated or responded to dozens of queries from reporters and editors on topics as diverse as the every-rising enrollments in community colleges and how the colleges are responding; efforts that community colleges are making to serve more students in the midst of state budget cuts (a favorite topic has been the so-called

“graveyard” classes starting around 11 p.m.); how the colleges are helping unemployed workers prepare for new jobs (the subject of a TODAY Show story in September); and the new Voluntary Framework of Accountability announced to the press in October. A host of stories in national publications includes coverage in the *Washington Post*, *USA TODAY* (extensive focus on international recruitment), the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and others. In addition to the *TODAY* story, AACC has been interviewed for and provided background information for *NBC Nightly News*, *CNN*, *NPR* and others.

7. AACC recently began concerted efforts to meet with *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on diverse topic areas, including international and multiple programs areas to broaden the number and depth of contacts.
8. AACC has made significant progress in establishing collaborative relationships with business, industry and allied organizations. Outreach to industry forums and business and industry groups included:
 - The Conference Board’s 2009 Business and Education Meeting; the Software and Information Industry Association’s 1:1 connection’s meetings and education summit; the American Insurance Association, regarding community college programming in claims management and community college resources; and Grainger, regarding program support for the *Tools for Tomorrow* scholarship program.
 - The Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's BCLC National Conference on Corporate Community Investment and the U.S. Department of Commerce Sustainability and U.S. Competitiveness Summit.
9. AACC has been involved in discussions and collaborations with common-cause organizations including the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Independent Sector, Excelencia in Education, the National Governors Association, the Institute for Higher Education Policy and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

Strategic Action Area II: Student Access, Learning and Success

1. AACC is developing the second generation of the Achieving the Dream (ATD) data display and analysis suite of tools. This new implementation will be built using state-of-the-art business intelligence (BI) software and will allow colleges to analyze their data and compare it with appropriate peer colleges. The new tools will be better integrated and should provide a more intuitive interface for the end user. AACC plans to use ATD, in part, as a platform to develop tools to use on the AACC website.
2. AACC was awarded grants totaling \$1 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Lumina Foundation for Education for Phase II of the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) project. AACC, in collaboration with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the College Board, will work with community colleges to develop a new voluntary accountability system designed to measure outcomes and processes specific to community colleges. The VFA will provide opportunities for colleges to benchmark their student progress and completion data

against appropriate peers and to provide key stakeholders with critical information (accountability measures) on the colleges.

3. This initiative began will build on work started last year with an earlier phase of the VFA initiative in which AACC, AACT and the College Board, with support from Lumina Foundation for Education, used research to identify the need for a common accountability framework among community colleges, identify the needs of community colleges and formulate potential next steps. The Gates and Lumina grants will start Phase II and will include the broad involvement of community colleges in the development process of the measures. The elements of Phase II will include:
 - Analysis of current college and state data collection efforts
 - Development of a common set of measures
 - Development of a conceptual model that will show colleges and states how the data they submit will be available for analysis
 - Market research to gather input from community colleges
 - Field testing of the common measures
 - Development of a plan to encourage community college and state systems to participate in the voluntary accountability framework

Funding is for two years and includes resources for a new full-time project manager position, as well as support for existing staff. Kent Phillippe will be serving as AACC lead on this project.

4. The Plus 50 Initiative has been an outstanding success story for AACC. Thirteen of the 15 grant colleges are having notable success in gearing up or expanding their programs. (One California college dropped out for financial reasons, and a Virginia college was discontinued for non-performance.) At this time in the program:
 - All deliverables are on track and all goals are being reached.
 - All reports to the funder have been delivered on or ahead of schedule.
 - Colleges attending the annual Plus50 conference rated all sessions excellent or good.
 - A research publication about work with plus 50 learners at community college has gotten positive response and good distribution.
 - The program director took the initiative to redirect some unused funds (because of a later start of some personnel) to engage an additional 12 affiliate Plus 50 colleges.
 - Press coverage to date includes 67 articles.
 - The first two of six planned webinars were executed with 70 participants, 60 of whom are new or non-grantee colleges. Others will be completed before the end of the year.
 - The Year One evaluation by an independent firm notes that Plus 50 grantees offered 856 more workforce training courses for plus 50 students, and 72% of students in the programs agreed that their workforce training has helped them get hired into a job.

5. In addition, the Plus 50 staff has sought out new and related opportunities, including a response for a FIPSE grant competition that was not funded, but the outreach will be reported to the funder as an example of AACC's "hustle" to sustain the work. The program director has contributed to another proposal with AARP that will leverage AACC's work and provide modest funds to AACC, allowing us to "stretch" the original grant amount still further. Both the program director and the VP of Communications have participated in topic discussions with key organizations, continue to seek new opportunities to expand the program and are collaborating with other organizations engaged in the plus 50 "space," including a newly funded webinar AACC will develop with Civic Ventures and that will be funded by MetLife.
6. Representatives from several community colleges that have extensive online education programs met at AACC headquarters on October 20 to discuss possible strategies to collaborate to make community college online courses and programs more visible and accessible, given the focus on these programs in the American Graduation Initiative.
7. As a national partner in Achieving the Dream (ATD), AACC has been working on several fronts -- research, IT, Web and programs. AACC staff focused on participation in the semiannual coach and data facilitator retreat—which included reviews of the Guides to ATD Principles and Practices, including those on accreditation; engaging faculty; student interventions; updates to the ATD Web site; preparations for the next influx of student data for the national database; planning the program agenda for the 2010 ATD Strategy Institute, including a call for workshop proposals; and review of those proposals. The Strategy Institute will be held Feb. 2-5, 2010, in Charlotte, N.C. Online registration for the Strategy Institute opened in October. AACC is also represented on the ATD Steering Committee, which is responsible for planning ATD's national expansion.
8. AACC and the National Science Foundation co-hosted the 16th annual Advanced Technological Education (ATE) National Principal Investigators Conference in Washington, D.C., Oct. 21-23, 2009. The theme was Technicians in the Green Economy. More than 800 people attended from community colleges and their business, high school, and university partners; 67 students also attended and presented poster sessions on their programs of study, including information and communications technology, convergence technology, robotics, cybersecurity, biotechnology, aerospace and engineering technology. Keynoters were Randy Udall, former director of the Community Office for Resource Efficiency; Deborah Rowe, president of U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development; and Martha Kanter, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education.
9. The annual AACC MentorLinks project conference was held Oct. 20-21 in conjunction with the ATE PI Conference, with project team members and STEM mentors attending from 9 colleges. The mentee colleges are Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Ky.; Clark State Community College, Ohio; Lewis and Clark Community College, Ill.; Lincoln Land Community College, Ill.; Mid-Plains Community College, Neb.; Neosho County Community College, Kan.; Pueblo Community College, Colo.; West Virginia University at Parkersburg, W.Va.; and Westmoreland County Community College, Pa..

In addition to project reporting and networking across colleges, participants discussed accountability measures for technician education programs, pending federal legislation, faculty development, curriculum alteration/development, engaging local industry and program marketing/promotion. After only one year, four of the nine colleges have leveraged their small (\$7,500 for each of two years) MentorLinks grant into new grants valued at a total of nearly \$500,000 from other sources.

10. The Minority Male Student Success database project has reached a milestone with its online launch in November. The first batch of program profiles from community colleges that pilot tested this interactive, Web-based resource is now searchable. All member colleges have been invited to submit descriptions of their programs designed to recruit, retain and graduate males of color. AACC is currently seeking funding for expansion of the program.
11. On Sept. 1, 2009, AACC began its sixth consecutive three-year grant from the Learn and Serve America program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. This initiative features subgrants to 24 colleges focused on service learning and community engagement. Eight colleges have been selected as mentor institutions for the program, *Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning*. Four colleges (Anne Arundel Community College, Md.; Community College of Vermont, Vt.; Glendale Community College, Calif.; Salt Lake Community College, Utah) will focus on service learning using new media and Web 2.0 strategies to assist community-based organizations. Four other colleges (Brookhaven College, Texas; Lorain County Community College, Ohio; Queensborough Community College, N.Y.; Western Piedmont Community College, N.C.) will offer service learning in local and after-school programs via environmental education, as part of the No Child Left Inside movement. AACC's program assessment plan includes tracking the effect of service learning participation on student retention and persistence rates, as well as community partner outcomes.
12. AACC will soon announce a request for proposals for a new project, *Make It Personal: College Completion*. Funded by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, the purpose of the project is to help students address pregnancy planning, prevention and healthy relationships as a way to improve student retention and success. AACC will award \$20,000 one-year grants to four member colleges to develop curricular or co-curricular content and materials that can be readily adopted or adapted by other community colleges.
13. The summary publication from AACC's Project Reach: Service Inclusion for Students with Disabilities is now available in print and online and will be disseminated to all member colleges. *Enriched & Inspired: Service Pathways to College Success* relates stories and strategies from colleges that participated in the national service learning grant from 2005 through 2009. Project Reach was supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service through its special initiative, Engaging Persons with Disabilities in National and Community Service. Service opportunities for students in developmental education and veterans were featured in the fourth year of the project.

14. AACC will offer workshops on service learning and civic engagement in three Achieving the Dream states in spring 2010. Achieving the Dream colleges are invited to apply to host the workshops; dates and locations will be announced by January. Faculty and administrators at participating ATD colleges will be invited to attend.
15. AACC's director of service learning, Gail Robinson, completed a two-year term on the board of the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement by chairing the association's ninth international conference Oct. 9-12, 2009, in Ottawa, Ontario. Discussions at the conference are leading to more community college/university collaborations for research on service learning and community engagement.
16. Staff participated in a meeting convened Sept. 25, 2009, by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to address the extraordinarily high failure rates among students in developmental mathematics in community colleges. As a first priority, the foundation seeks to support action on the development of an integrated pathway to and through statistics. ATD coach and former AACC Board member Bernadine Chuck Fong will lead Carnegie's effort.

Strategic Action Area III: Leadership Development

1. AACC's Future Leaders Institute (FLI) will host its second annual FLI/Workforce Development Institute (WDI), an intensive 1 ½ day seminar designed for workforce training and continuing education professionals looking to move into a higher level of leadership, beginning Jan. 22, 2009 (just prior to the WDI) in St. Petersburg, Florida. After a great response to the 2009 inaugural institute, the program was extended by a half a day to allow for more networking time as well as more opportunities for participants to meet with FLI career counselors, a valuable experience built into all of AACC's FLI events.
2. Planning for the 2010 June Future Leaders Institute (FLI) and Future Leaders Institute/Advanced (FLI/ADV) is well underway and dates and location will be announced soon. To date we have had 46 FLI and/or FLI/ADV graduates who have been named to presidencies and more than 250 others who have made significant career changes. We value the support of the Board and encourage you to continue to nominate the rising leaders on your campus for these opportunities.

Strategic Action Area IV: Economic and Workforce Development

1. Plans are underway for the 2010 Workforce Development Institute (WDI) in St. Petersburg, Fla., Jan. 27-30. The theme of WDI 2010 is *The Stimulus and Beyond*, and many of the speakers and sessions will reflect the reality of the current economy and the future role of community colleges in workforce and economic development. Presenters from the federal government include, Jane Oates, Brenda Dann-Messier, Grace Kilbane, and Glenn Cummings.

2. AACC has been actively tracking options for colleges to respond to challenges of the economic recovery and funding opportunities provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Through the Center for Workforce and Economic Development (CWED), AACC submitted prime and partner responses to U.S. DOL solicitations for green job and healthcare proposals, including support for an AARP proposal to prepare older workers to work in aging care.
3. AACC also participates in cross-agency efforts to integrate federal workforce development strategies and investments, including energy and healthcare initiatives. INEAP (the Interagency Network of Enterprise Assistance Providers) collaborates to create a common agenda. Several of the agencies will present at WDI 2010. AACC will continue to make a significant effort to collect and synthesize information that provides colleges with examples and strategies to participate in AARA and related opportunities in conjunction with industry, community and government partners.
4. The 20 sites (17 rural and 3 urban/suburban) involved in the Walmart Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative continue to implement, scale and plan for the sustainability of their individual efforts. CWED supported these sites in building collaborative partnerships, facilitating the sharing of industry and community lessons learned and helping them in identifying potential grants. CWED has worked directly with several of the sites during this quarter to provide technical assistance, leadership guidance and community understanding for their sector initiatives to rejuvenate stagnant labor markets, several of which, are "greening." As of October 2009, the sites are one year into their two-year funding and they continue to document substantial achievements as they complete their local evaluations. CWED is working with Jobs for the Future as an external evaluator on the overarching cross-site evaluation. CWED continues discussions with Walmart Foundation to guide and support the inclusion of AACC members in their workforce development portfolio.
5. AACC is working 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. Four colleges have been added so far in 2009 with an additional four expected. Moreover, TSA received authority to train air crews from charter fleets as well as United Parcel Service (UPS) and Federal Express employees, which will result in the addition of several more hub airports in the next few years. Outreach efforts to crew members at crew member lounges will continue. Additionally, train the trainer efforts will continue to certify new and current instructors as new colleges are brought on board.
6. Directed by the AACC Board in the fall of 2008 to focus on green jobs, CWED has played an active role in launching the Sustainability Task Force and finding support for it to develop and implement a sustainability and green jobs agenda. The center has partnered with ecoAmerica, with initial funding from the Surdna Foundation, to begin to create the Community College Sustainable Economy Resource Center with a searchable database for green jobs curriculum, certifications and model programs. A recent proposal

was submitted to the Kresge Foundation to expand work on the Web site and to support future planning for AACC.

7. AACC partnered with the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium, the Association for Career and Technical Education and Green for All to present a Webinar, *Education for the Green Economy: Opportunities, Resources and Models*. More than 800 participated.
8. The World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) launched an international Affinity Group related to environmental sustainability. AACC has appointed the U.S. representatives. The group continues to expand and was featured at the recent “Big Skills” conference in Sydney, Australia.
9. AACC continues to respond to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to provide information on community college programs and services positioned to support the goals of the Gates Postsecondary Success Initiative related to workforce development. CWED will receive Gates funding through the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) to involve colleges in state and regional implementation of energy career pathways and credentials. CWED also has been asked to participate in Gates projects with the Corps Network and the National League of Cities.
10. AACC continues to work with a Homeland Security Action Team (HSAT) as a resource for security training at community college hubs that are strategically located. It serves as a delivery conduit for specialty security programs at selected community colleges. Recently, the association played a key role with HSAT in developing a successful \$3 + million grant proposal to FEMA that will be administered by one of AACC’s affiliated councils, Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE). The grant will lead to a competitive process for member colleges to deliver fee-for-service training in community disaster preparedness.
11. AACC is working closely with National Association of Workforce Boards to connect colleges with their local workforce boards and encourage collaboration. Both WDI and the NAWB annual conference will feature pre-conference sessions aimed at building these partnerships on local and regional levels.
12. AACC continues to meet with an array of organizations, including Kaiser Permanente, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the American Health Care Association and the National Organization of State Rural Health Offices, to discuss funding opportunities to support its nursing and allied health efforts.
13. As part of Health Care Reform proceedings, AACC has worked with Senator Harry Reid on an amendment to create a new Public Health Service Act grant eligible only to community colleges for the purposes of strengthening nursing programs and developing partnerships to enable associate degree graduates to continue their education. Additionally, AACC continues efforts to uphold community college eligibility for

existing Public Health Service Act grant programs.

14. AACC presented at and participated in the National Organization of State Rural Health Officers (NOSORH) meeting Aug. 17-21 that focused on meeting health care workforce needs in rural America. (NOSORH members support and employ associate degree health professions graduates.)
15. On Sept. 14 and Oct. 19, AACC attended as well as worked to encourage community college allies to attend a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing at the Institute of Medicine meeting and forum. While AACC succeeded in securing community college representation to the Initiative's Commission, the individual chosen may not be aligned with the community college position on nursing education. AACC has met with that representative to encourage her to work to make the commission fully aware of community college contributions to the nursing workforce and to ensure that community colleges are fairly represented. AACC views this initiative as critical to community colleges as it will result in a 2010 publication of recommended changes to nursing education.
16. On Sept. 22, AACC participated in a Health Resources and Services Administration funded Health Information Technology (HIT) conference focused on expanding educational programs to meet HIT workforce needs in rural America as need increases in response to Electronic Health Records becoming a reality. AACC promoted community colleges—currently educating the majority of HIT workers—as institutions with experience and proven success to educate HIT workers. Baccalaureate college representatives advocated for minimal four-year degree preparation for HIT workers.
17. AACC is working to position community colleges to secure new federal resources to educate and expand the public health workforce in response to increasing international concern about pandemic influenza. In that regard, on Sept. 1, AACC presented at a meeting focused on creating certificate programs to educate public health finance workers, and, on Sept. 8, AACC presented at a meeting focused on efforts to expand associate degree in Public Health programs in the Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020 goals.
18. After months of collaborating to draft a proposal with AACC, the AARP submitted a U.S. Dept. of Labor a grant Oct. 5 that proposes to expand health care career pathways for older (40+) individuals working or seeking to work in geriatric care settings. If funded, AACC will receive funding to support its role in the effort, which would complement AACC's Plus 50 Initiative.
19. On Oct. 9, AACC presented on a panel focused on community partnerships to meet health care workforce needs at a Community Health Leaders (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) meeting in Washington, D.C.

Strategic Action Area V: International and Intercultural Education

1. Representatives from the AACC Center for Workforce Development provided support for recent discussions between the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor and representatives for German Federal Ministry of Education and the German Embassy to explore the creation of formal linkages and a shared operational agenda on topics of mutual interest. The Germans wanted to amplify and reinforce their pre-existing MOU between AACC and the German BIBB within a more overarching set of activities between the two government departments. All parties agreed to a focused agenda that included shared activity and information in the following areas: tracking systems, advanced automotive developments, green jobs definition/development and life-long learning issues. In addition, agreement was reached to a joint follow-up summit meeting of experts to be held in the early spring of 2011 in Bonn, Germany.
2. In mid-September, the American Council on Education partnered with AACC to lead a team supported by USAID Mission funding to improve South African FET colleges in three provinces of that country. Activities are aimed at building institutional capacity in student services, labor market information creation, employer engagement, entrepreneurship/small business incubation and HIV education and prevention. FET college presidents were given a deep emersion in the topical implementation plan as well as a creative process to establish their own three-year plan of action. Some team members embarked on visits to a few selected colleges while a team of professionals from Youth Build and Bronx Community College visited all of the colleges to assess present capacity and institutional plans to implement a solid foundation of student services.
3. AACC staff led its third delegation of presidents and vice presidents to China in October. Co-sponsored by AACC and CEAIE (Chinese Education Association for International Exchange), the trip included (1) a conference in Beijing with CEAIE member college leaders from throughout China and (2) a post-Beijing t to visit Chinese vocational and technical colleges. The trip provided opportunities to identify initiatives and partnerships with CEAIE vocational and technical institutions. In Beijing, the AACC delegation had a fruitful meeting at the U.S. Embassy that advanced efforts to move up visa appointments for the Chinese delegation that will visit five community college campuses in late October (see next item). The group also traveled to Xi'an, Hangzhou, Ningbo and Shanghai for a series of meetings to develop relationships and identify ways to work together.
4. The second Vocational and Educational Leadership Training (VELT) program is taking place Oct. 29 – Nov. 20 and includes 20 Chinese presidents and vice presidents. An orientation program took place in Long Beach City College prior to five community colleges each hosting a group of 4-5 delegates (plus a translator) for a two- week period. When the training program is completed, the group will be back in Washington, D.C., for visits to the U.S. Department of Education, CHEA and the Chinese Embassy. An evaluation will take place at AACC on Nov. 20. The five host colleges are: Butte

College (Calif.), Madison Area Technical College (Wis.), Parkland College (Ill.); St. Louis Community College (Mo.); and Salt Lake Community College (Utah).

5. AACC's newly designed and reformatted 2008 edition of *Guide to U.S. Community Colleges for International Students* has been published with 15,000 copies distributed throughout the world. The publication is also online at www.aacc.nche.edu/international. The publication contains general information about U.S. community colleges and profiles of 112 community colleges. Each profile includes an overview of the institution, application dates, costs, English language requirements, programs and services offered, transfer universities, housing options and contact information.
6. In partnership with the Institute for International Education, AACC led a delegation of 21 colleges to Vietnam to recruit students in Ho Chi Minh City and Danang. The group also met with the U.S. consulate in Ho Chi Minh City and with high school students in Danang. The fairs were well attended as students are becoming more familiar with the U.S. community college model.
7. In an effort to promote Fulbright opportunities to community colleges for administrators and faculty, as well as the Scholar in Residence program, AACC staff traveled to Oregon and Washington with a Fulbright representative to hold a series of meetings. As a result, more applications to participate in these programs were submitted.
8. AACC staff participated in the 2009 Western Hemisphere EducationUSA Adviser Training Program to showcase the U.S. community college model to 100 advisers who promote U.S. higher education in Latin America to students interested in studying in this country.

Operations

1. AACC Membership Dues notices were mailed in mid-September. The dues notices reflected a 2 percent dues increase, a special fee for the Nursing-Allied Health Initiative (NAHI) and the Presidents Academy fee. As of October 20, AACC had received \$1,341,320 from 256 in membership dues; \$179,500 from 202 colleges for NAHI, and \$11,500 from 230 colleges for Presidents Academy. This is roughly comparable to the levels of membership dues received by this time in past years.
2. AACC has expanded interactive and social media content capabilities by adding interactive blogs and enhancing its Face Book, Twitter, and YouTube presence. The AACC Office of Government Relations (OGR) launched a blog in June that is designed to address President Obama's American Graduation Initiative as well as other important issues facing community colleges. The OGR blog has a news alert service available for sign-up, which has already attracted over 700 registrants.
3. AACC launched an interactive blog in early September to address and discuss NBC's new sit-com "Community." The interactive blog has seen high traffic ratings and has been referenced in many higher education articles and on Web sites. The Community

blog allows user commenting and peer-to-peer dialogue. Visit the blog at: <http://greendalecc.blogspot.com/>.

4. AACC established a new Webinar platform that allows AACC to host national webinars on select topics. To date AACC has hosted a webinar on the American Graduation Initiative, featuring David Baime, Vice President of Government Relations; the second webinar was on Swine Flu and featured Martha Kanter, Undersecretary of Education and Stephanie Zaza, a public health official from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The webinars had nearly 1,000 collective registrants. AACC plans to host additional webinars in the future. Registration and archived presentations are available online through the AACC Web site.
5. AACC's Corporate Program has secured \$393,758 in event sponsorships for 2009, a 13 percent increase above 2008's amount while retaining 98 percent of the 2008 corporate donors and increasing 2009 donors by 54%. AACC also collaborated with one corporate supporter, Grainger, to increase to 100 the number of scholarships the company funds for students in technical/skilled trades careers. In-kind contributions for 2009 total \$15,000.
6. AACC's Corporate Program worked with METI-L-3 Communications to amend the Lanza scholarship endowment agreement to omit a perpetuity clause, accelerating scholarship payments. In September 2009, AACC and PTK launched the 2010 scholarship program, which will provide 25, \$1,000 scholarships to second year nursing and allied health students. The total Lanza donors' contributions will be \$250,000 over five years.
7. The Corporate Program received a commitment from Coca-Cola in the amount of \$100,000 for continuation of the New Century Scholars program into 2010. This eight-year-old program each year recognizes the top scholar in each of the 50 states, with each student receiving a \$2,000 scholarship for future study.
8. Bi-monthly meetings with the Executive and Audit & Finance Committees have continued throughout 2009 to monitor annual dues receipts, net convention revenue and investment income. All of these key revenue line items have subsequently exceeded the revised budget goals established in February 2009. Investment income, in particular, has recouped more than 60% of the losses recognized in 2008.
9. All audit recommendations for years 2006-2008 have been addressed and resolved or are scheduled for resolution in 2010. The only items that remain to be fully implemented are development of a complete disaster recovery plan (slowed due to budget constraints in 2009) and outsourcing of accounts payable processing (awaiting the return of the controller from disability leave). The 2008 audit, tax returns and other compliance reporting were completed on a timely basis earlier in 2009.

10. AACC has identified five auditing and tax preparation firms that seem to be capable of performing AACC's regular and federal audit and tax work. These firms, in addition to our current auditor, will receive the RFP for calendar year 2010 services before the end of 2009. Four of the firms receiving the RFP are women or minority-owned businesses.