



AACC CEO Board Update American Association of Community Colleges February 2012

Dear AACC Board Members:

Let me begin by wishing all of you a Happy New Year. Things are up and rolling here at the AACC offices, and I am enthusiastic about the way our outlook for the new year is already shaping up in a very positive way. I am writing this update on the heels of a **very successful AACC Workforce Development Institute (WDI)**, held January 24–28 in Miami. This is the 19th year for this increasingly popular event, and Vice President Jim McKenney and his staff did a great job with the conference. Approximately 450 registrants attended, and several hundred more took part in concurrent meetings of related workforce groups.

- Our work in leadership development continues to make progress. **In conjunction with WDI, we again offered our Future Leaders Institute (FLI), which attracted 35 aspiring leaders** — almost doubling our usual attendance at the event. Participants evaluated the institute very positively, thanks to the good work of Dr. Martha Ellis and Dr. Angel Royal.
- Two other new activities have promise for our leadership development efforts:
 - After leaving Miami, I met with **Houston Community College System Chancellor Dr. Mary Spangler** to explore the possibilities of having HCC host our first Regional FLI. As is always the case, Dr. Spangler was very supportive, and I look forward to updating you all at our April Board meeting.
 - In mid-January, Dr. Angel Royal and I met with Josh Wyner **to discuss a joint leadership initiative between AACC and the Aspen Institute**. We took advantage of this opportunity to discuss the next round of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Our relationship with the institute continues to grow and has proven useful on multiple fronts.
- As I have shared with you previously, **the first Aspen Prize was awarded in December to Valencia College**, which received the top \$600,000 award. Other colleges recognized with individual \$100,000 awards were Lake Area Technical Institute, Miami Dade College, Walla Walla Community College, and West Kentucky Community and Technical College. The remaining colleges selected in the top 10 were Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Mott Community College, Northeast Iowa Community College, Santa Barbara City College, and Southwest Texas Junior College. Staff and I were pleased to attend the National Press Club event and salute Dr. Sandy Shugart and the other winners. Dr. Shugart gave a very moving and inspirational acceptance speech and certainly represented our nation's community colleges extraordinarily well.
- We are delighted to have had our new **Senior Vice President Dr. Gail Schwartz** join us this month. She is getting acclimated in her new role and starting to meet with staff and external visitors.

- We received yet another piece of good news in January when we were informed that **AACC has received a new \$3.2 million grant from the Deerbrook Charitable Trust** to expand our successful Plus 50 Initiative. Over a 3-year period, the funds will be used to reach an additional 10,000 adult learners at 100 community colleges. The students will get job training and complete a certificate or degree in professions related to healthcare, education, or social service. Kudos to Senior Vice President Norma Kent, Plus 50 Director Mary Sue Vickers, and Associate Vice President Mary Heiss for their good work on this proposal.
- All of us in community colleges are aware of how critically important the Pell Grant program is to community colleges — with over 3 million of our students receiving this financial support. With leadership by Senior Vice President David Baime and his staff, **AACC convened a meeting January 20 with community college leaders from across the country to discuss strategies** for what is expected to be a contentious debate centered on Pell in Congress this year. I was grateful that Board Chair Myrtle Dorsey and Board member Ned Doffoney were able to join us for this important discussion.
- Although one of my New Year’s resolutions is to travel a little less in 2012, I said “yes” to several important presentations in January:
 - I represented AACC at the **League for Innovation’s Executive Leadership Institute (ELI)** where I was part of a panel including Dr. John Roueche and Dr. Kay McClenney. This presentation was special to me since I was a participant in the inaugural ELI in 1988.
 - At the invitation of **Broward College President David Armstrong**, I delivered the commencement address at his college in mid-December.
 - I joined **administrators of the Jamaican community college system as keynote speaker** for the conference sponsored by the Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica. The topic was “Leading for Winning in the 21st Century.”
 - At the **invitation of Arkansas Community Colleges at Batesville Chancellor Dr. Deborah Frazier**, I keynoted the college’s spring convocation. This trip also afforded the opportunity to **visit with Dr. Ed Franklin, executive director of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges**, to receive an update on the system’s challenges and progress.
 - On January 12, I **addressed faculty and staff of Sandhills Community College (NC)** on leadership development. We received excellent feedback, and I believe this and other leadership presentations are advancing our work on this AACC priority.
- Two other meetings rounded out my January schedule in Washington, DC: **Members of The Six received an excellent update on the work of the National Student Clearinghouse**, which supports the six commissions on attainment and accreditation; **Council of Independent Colleges President Richard Eckman** and I met to explore potential collaborations between our organizations.
 - Staff and I had a number of promising meetings to further key areas of AACC’s work with external groups: January 11 Dr. Gail Schwartz and I met with Dr. Wayne Giles, who, along with Dr. Charlene Nunley and Dr. Alan Edwards, has been leading **AACC efforts related to a project with the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) to increase the numbers of students transferring to APLU institutions**. This pilot project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and is making good progress with participating community colleges.

- January 18 – Associate Vice President Kent Phillippe and I met with **EDUCAUSE CEO Diana Oblinger and Susan Grajek to explore a joint AACC/EDUCAUSE IT study**. Kent will serve as lead on this effort, and I will keep the Board apprised as it moves forward.
- January 18 – Associate Vice President Alice Blayne-Allard and I met with **Marlene Johnson, CEO of Association of International Educators (better known as NAFSA) and Arlene Jackson, American Association of State Colleges and Universities**, to discuss international initiatives and potential collaborations between our respective associations.
- As you are aware, AACC provides a **community college spotlight** section on its website’s homepage, where we feature one community college each week. The featured institutions for the month of February will be:
 - Feb. 6, Flathead Valley Community College (MT)
 - Feb. 13, Cuyahoga Community College (OH)
 - Feb. 20, Metropolitan Community College (NE)
 - Feb. 27, Jackson Community College (MI)
- I’d like to also take this opportunity to mention a recognition that was recently announced for **Senior Vice President, Communications and Advancement, Norma Kent, who was named by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) to receive their Career Service Award** for “professional and longtime accomplishments in college marketing and public relations.” Kudos to Norma for this very prestigious award. She is richly deserving for her body of work over the years in the Dallas District and certainly at AACC. Please join me in congratulating her.

In closing, I want to remind you that the final meeting of 21st-Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges will be held in Washington, D.C., later this week. During the meeting we will be discussing and deciding on the recommendations that will be presented to the full AACC Board at the April meeting.