



## AACC CEO Board Update American Association of Community Colleges October 3, 2011

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Dear AACC Board Members:

**It was definitely a September to remember!** In my 30 years of working with community colleges, I can't recall a time past with greater potential funding for and focus on our colleges. Within the past 30 days, President Obama offered legislation that could provide \$5 billion for infrastructure rebuilding at community colleges—the only sector in higher ed to be singled out for such a potential investment—and \$500 million was awarded to 32 grantees via the Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training program. For more details, please visit <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/eta20111409fs.htm>.

Added to these unprecedented funding opportunities, 10 of our college presidents were celebrated as Champions of Change at a White House ceremony based on their being named finalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Staff and I were privileged to attend the ceremony and witness this extraordinary spotlight on these deserving leaders. (<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/newsevents/News/articles/Pages/093020111.aspx>).

The start of the fall season has been significant in other ways, as staff and I work to advance AACC priority initiatives and explore new possible collaborations in a range of areas.

1. **The emphasis on completion and the goals of our Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA)** were both at play during an excellent meeting AACC convened on September 14 that included major boards, panels and committees that are currently working to develop appropriate metrics for community colleges. By making all groups aware of what each is doing in this important work, we hope to move toward better understanding of eventual outcomes and, hopefully, some level of consensus about what it all means for our colleges.
2. **Our Listening Tours continue to be in demand.** On September 8, Jim McKenney, David Baime, Sarah Cale and I joined Chancellor Nancy Zimpher for a Listening Tour event with the SUNY colleges, which contributed additional and valuable information. At least two more events are planned through the end of the year: October 21 in Pennsylvania at Harrisburg Area Community College, hosted by AACC Board member John Sygielski, and November 1-2 in Nebraska, hosted by AACC Board member and Mid-Plains Community College President Michael Chipps and the Nebraska Community College Association.
3. **We also received good feedback at a special September 23 colloquium, hosted by the CUNY colleges** and former AACC Board Member Eduardo Martí. I provided the keynote for the meeting and was joined by Board members Marie Gnage, Pam Quinn, Karen Stout, and Carole Berotte-Joseph, as well as staff members David Baime and Kent Phillippe.

4. **Our cultivation of future college leaders is high on my personal and professional priority list**, so I was very pleased to be guest lecturer on September 26, for the Community College Leadership Program at University Texas at Austin. John Roueche continues to do a phenomenal job with this program. Related to AACC's own leadership development efforts, I am planning a November meeting with the facilitators of our Future Leader Institute (FLI), FLI/Advanced, Presidents Academy and New CEOs Workshop. More details on this will be forthcoming.
5. **A meeting late in the month explored the progress of our partnership with Goodwill Industries** and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) in developing a unique workforce training model. Goodwill's CEO Jim Gibbons and Brad Turner joined NOVA CEO Bob Templin, AACC staff Jim McKenney, Kathy Mannes, and me to talk about scaling up our work to give it more national impact. You will be hearing more about this in November.
6. **Norma Kent and I also had an opportunity to reinforce and build on our longtime relationship with USA TODAY.** Along with Phi Theta Kappa, AACC has had ongoing engagement in the USA All Academic Team selection and presentation at the AACC Convention each year. *USA Today* had in past years also provided some event sponsorships and other support. The company's Vice President for National Sales and Business Development Carol Barrett agreed to provide a sponsorship at this year's Presidents Academy Summer Institute, and they also want to further explore how best to increase awareness of a program that combines current events literacy and developmental education. AACC Board Member Karen Stout has had good success with the program on her Montgomery County College campus.
7. **September has also brought several opportunities to improve rapport within the higher ed community.** Senior staff and I hosted American Council on Education President Molly Broad and her senior staff for an informal luncheon on September 19, and later in the month, I joined CEOs of The Six for a dinner at Molly Broad's Georgetown home for a combination social and business event.
8. **I also had wonderful opportunities to learn from some of our AACC "sages" during the month.** Dr. John Connolly, a former AACC Board member and Board Chair from the 1970s, dropped by for a visit on September 14. Another special highlight was a luncheon invitation to the Cosmos Club from AACC President Emeritus Ed Gleazer and his wife Charlene. Dr. Gleazer not only hosted me for lunch, but he also sponsored my membership in the Club, which is near AACC headquarters and is used by many of my counterparts for special meetings. The luncheon offered the perfect opportunity for me to let Ed know that we plan to name AACC's large conference room in his honor. This will be officially announced at the November Board meeting.
9. **Two events, one social and one operational, focused on AACC personnel.** I joined staff for the annual summer outing/picnic at the National Zoo for an afternoon event. As a follow up to our June all-staff retreat, Charisse Bazin Ash and I met with the retreat facilitators to review the outcomes from the previous retreat and to plan for future staff development work.
10. **A few other personnel notes: We were pleased to announce the appointment of two new staff members who will begin work over the next few weeks: Dr. Angel Royal** has accepted the position of Associate Vice President, Leadership Development and Board Relations, and **Alyce Blayne-Allard** has accepted the position of Associate Vice President, International Services and Programs. Both individuals will be introduced at the November Board meeting.

11. **I will be briefing the Executive Committee on October 14, and the full Board in November about an exciting new “value add” feature to the AACC Corporate Program.** In response to expressed interest among our corporate supporters, we will pilot three focus group sessions at the November meeting. I believe you will be pleased with this innovation to serve the business community. More details will follow.

12. **A number of other telephone and in-person meetings covered a wide range of topics and interests:**

- September 6 - A conference call with the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics Board of Directors, to assist in planning the group’s semi-annual world congress.
- September 7 - A meeting with North Shore Community College (MA) President Wayne Burton to receive a briefing about his meeting with the U.S. Department of Education’s panel that is developing completion and outcome metrics for community colleges.
- September 16 - A discussion with CASE CEO John Lippincott to learn more about the organization’s new community college program.
- September 20 – A meeting with the Community College Consortium of Immigrant Education, along with Mary Heiss and Kevin Christian, to discuss possible collaboration.
- September 28 – A meeting with San Jose Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (CA) President Ruben Hernandez to discuss his group’s international partnership with San Jose City College President Barbara Kavalier.
- September 29 – A meeting with Kim Griffo, Executive Director of International Town and Gown Association to explore ways community colleges might become more engaged in her organization, which serves as a resource to manage community/campus engagement.

It is clear from this whirl-wind of activity in just one month that community colleges continue to be at the epicenter of leading higher education issues, and AACC and its staff are serving a tremendous national role in connecting and speaking for our colleges. The early weeks of October promise to be equally demanding as I begin a period of extended travel that includes 11 presentations in a variety of venues, including the ACCT Annual Congress in Dallas, where I will lead or participate in four sessions. Also in Dallas, the AACC Executive Committee and I will have preliminary discussions of important issues that will engage all of you in November. I look forward to seeing many of you at ACCT, during upcoming speaking events, and, especially on November 8-11 here in the nation’s capital.