



AACC CEO Board Update American Association of Community Colleges December 2, 2011

Dear AACC Board Members:

With only a few weeks left in 2011, my first year as AACC President is winding down, and I am amazed at how quickly 12 months have passed. The time from selection to transition and moving to DC seems like only yesterday. Yet, with your enthusiastic support and the hard work of the AACC staff, we have accomplished much on behalf of our member colleges.

I am so grateful for your tremendous support, advice, counsel, and patience. You have been there every step of the way and have gone a few steps beyond to help advance the association and to guide our success. My special thanks go to the 2010-11 Executive Committee and former Chair Sygielski and to the 2011-12 Executive Committee and Chair Dorsey. Your commitment of time – particularly during our August planning meeting and more recently during our extended fall meetings – has been invaluable. Many of you even helped us launch the new focus groups for our Corporate Council, a new feature with significant promise. My deep and genuine thanks to you all.

In the “**breaking news**” department, I want to let you know about three very positive items:

- On Tuesday, **the federal Committee on Measures of Student Success issued its report**, and the recommendations are largely favorable to community colleges. The major recommendation is to combine into a single number graduation and transfer rates, which would immediately almost double the community college completion rate – from the current 22% to a healthy 40%. The recommendations were covered by multiple publications, including our own Community College Times (<http://www.communitycollegetimes.com/Pages/Government/Federal-panel.aspx>).
- In a stroke of serendipity, **AACC on Wednesday announced the release of the just-completed manual for its Voluntary Framework of Accountability**. This release brings to culmination 18 months of hard work by members of our Board, working committees, pilot colleges, and staff. It also provides the measure we believe should guide reporting of outcomes by our member institutions, which the AACC Board strongly endorsed at its November meeting.
- We have more **good news on membership renewal**. Compared to last year at this time, our total is approximately 150 colleges higher for 2012. Renewals for 2011 ran 170 colleges fewer at a comparable time last year, so this is a very positive trend. The second member renewal notice was sent just before Thanksgiving, and a third notice will go out a few weeks after that.

Following are some of the other activities that have kept staff and me busy throughout the month:



Our November started in the nation's heartland for the **last of our 2011 Listening Tour events**, hosted by AACC Board member Michael Chipps and the Nebraska Community College Association. David Baime, Norma Kent, Jim McKenney, and Sarah Cale joined me as we heard from almost 100 presidents, faculty and trustees and gained really useful insights for the association's work and that of the 21st-

Century Commission. This event rounded out an even dozen tours for the year with a total number of almost 1,200 participants.

As a prelude to our fall meetings, this year's **Washington Institute was its customary success**, including speakers from the Obama administration, as well as former Congressman Steve Gunderson. More dignitaries participated in the general session of our fall meetings, which opened with a lively panel discussion comprising Senior Policy Advisor to the Under Secretary of Education Hal Plotkin, Travis Reindl of the National Governors Association, Louis Soares of the Center for American Progress, and AACC Board Member Alex Johnson. AACC Chair-elect Marie Foster Gnage did an excellent job of facilitating the panel. Congratulations to the AACC Government Relations staff – David Baime, Jim Hermes, and Laurie Quarles – for a substantive and stimulating program.



Following the Washington Institute, we segued into **Corporate Council, Executive Committee, Affiliated Councils, Commissions, and AACC Board meetings**. Chair Dorsey's steady leadership (despite a terrible cold!) and your many contributions made every facet of this complex meeting series an overwhelming success. I was also appreciative of the very warm welcome you extended to AACC President Emeritus Dr. Ed Gleazer and special guest Dr. John Roueche during the **naming of the Edmund Gleazer Conference Room** at our special reception and dinner.

We are making progress in **selection of a new AACC Vice President for Academic, Innovation, and Student Success** following interviews November 18 and 21. The search committee and I have identified three exceptional finalists, and I plan to make a decision by the end of the month.

Our **focus on leadership development** continues to gain momentum under the leadership of Associate Vice President Angel Royal. A November meeting of individuals who support AACC's new president and future leaders training spanned two days and included Dr. Kathi Sigler, Dr. Martha Ellis, Dr. Pamila Fisher, and Dr. Christine McPhail. Dr. Jana Kooi, current Chair of the President's Academy, and Dr. Ann McGee, chair-elect, also joined the discussion.

The University of Maryland University College provides close to 200 scholarships annually to community college transfer students, and I was pleased to provide a keynote presentation at this year's scholarship event.

November was punctuated by a sequence of **other meetings and presentations** that helped me to connect with many of our higher education leaders:

- On November 3, AACC Board member Alex Johnson invited me to provide a **professional development program for the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Directors**.
- CHEA President and longtime friend Judith Eaton joined me November 4 to discuss **current accreditation issues and other updates**.
- Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard invited me mid-month to join her for lunch and an **update on the impressive progress she has made at this Maryland college** near Washington, DC. Dr. Pollard also serves on the 21st-Century Commission.
- **Gulf Coast State College President Jim Kerley and staff members** stopped by the AACC offices November 15 to discuss the association's legislative agenda and to **update me on activities in Florida**. Later that day, **I hosted League for Innovation in the Community College President Gerardo de los Santos** for our quarterly meeting to discuss mutual issues and possible collaborations.
- Dr. Brian Mitchell and Dr. Kurt Thiede visited AACC the following day to discuss the **Community College Linkage Project** and their work to establish a cooperative program between community colleges and private universities. Later in the day, I traveled to Massachusetts to make a **presentation at Greenfield Community College**. GCC President Bob Pura hosted the event.
- **Achieving the Dream President Bill Trueheart provided a tour of the organization's new suburban Maryland headquarters** for Dr. Angel Royal and me on November 17, and we used the opportunity to explore possible joint initiatives.
- Closing out the month, I met **this week with University of Maryland President Susan Aldridge and Montgomery College President Emerita Charlene Nunley to talk about collaboration**. Council of Independent Colleges President Richard Ekman stopped by later in the day.
- Continuing efforts to have staff members of The Six become better acquainted, **AACC welcomed Association of State Colleges and Universities President Muriel Howard and senior staff** for a discussion with the AACC Executive Leadership Team.

In addition to my own meetings and presentations, **members of the AACC Executive Leadership Team have represented AACC regionally, nationally and internationally.**

Alice Blayne-Allard, Associate Vice President, International Programs and Services:

- October 31: Attended the U.S.-Indonesia Higher Education Summit at the U.S. Department of Education.
- November 16: Attended the NAFSA Policy Brief, a policy conversation about the importance of study abroad and what can be done to ensure all students have access to a global education on Capitol Hill in the Senate.

David Baime, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Research:

- September 29: Met with the CEO, academic dean, SFA Director at Bronx Community College.
- October 6: Provided a briefing on education program integrity regulations to CUNY student financial aid administrators (2 and 4 year).
- October 8: Provided a legislative update to the Michigan Community College Association.
- October 11: Provided a Washington/policy update to the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.
- October 12: Provided a legislative update with ACCT staff at the ACCT Congress in Dallas.
- November 1–2: Provided a Washington update to Nebraska trustees and the Nebraska Community College Association.
- November 11: Provided a legislative update to the Council on Resource Development.

Kevin Christian, Senior Program Associate for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity:

- September 22–24: Participated in the National Community College Hispanic Council 16th Annual Leadership Symposium in San Antonio, Texas, hosted by Alamo Community College District, and provided an AACC update and joint presentation with Manuel Salgado (Elgin Community College).
- October 20–22: Participated in the National Council on Black American Affairs 10th Annual Mid-Level and Thomas Lakin Institutes, hosted by Wayne County Community College District. Provided an AACC update and joint presentation titled “Confronting the Challenge: A Dialogue on Inclusion and Leadership in Community Colleges.”
- October 20–November 1: Participated in the North Carolina Minority Male Mentoring Conference in Durham, North Carolina, hosted by the North Carolina Community College System. Exhibited for the Make It Personal : College Completion Initiative and participated in the joint presentation, “You Chart Your Destiny: Real Talk with College Presidents.”
- **November 5: Participated in the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management 33rd Annual Fall Research Conference.** Provided a joint presentation, “Social Equity and Public Policy: Challenges, Lessons and Future Directions in Researching Race.”
- November 7: Participated in the Casey Family Programs (Casey Foundation) Higher Education Consortium Meeting. The meeting focused on AACC’s current collaboration with Casey Family Programs and its commitment to providing resources for AACC member colleges.

Mary Heiss, Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives:

- September 28: Participated in OnlineCommunityColleges.org business meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, as AACC's designee.
- October 12: At the request of Skills for America's Future and at Dr. Bumphus' request, Kathy Mannes and I met with Marie Lynch from Chicago Career Tech at AACC's offices.
- October 13–14: Represented AACC at the roundtable "Two-Generation Education Strategies," co-hosted by Ascend at the Aspen Institute, the Foundation for Child Development, and the Ray Marshall Center at the University of Texas. Meeting was held at the Aspen Institute in Washington, DC.

Norma Kent, Senior Vice President, Communications and Advancement:

- October 4: Conferred with Discovery Education to promote the AACC Corporate Program and to explore other possible educational and promotional partnerships. Discovery subsequently agreed to join the Corporate Program at the Advocate level (\$10K) and also signed up to participate in the inaugural AACC business focus group prior to the November Board meeting (an additional \$10K commitment).
- October 7: Hosted Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (BRCTC) President Peter Checkovich and senior leadership team at AACC for a half-day briefing on association priorities and update on BRCTC programs.
- October 24: Conducted interview with Greg Toppo at *USA Today*, resulting in front page article on late-night classes at community colleges. That article led to multiple radio interviews and a segment on NBC Nightly News, which aired November 13.
- October 26: Reviewed with representative of Deerbrook Trust a \$3.2 million grant proposal to bring to scale workforce training programs for older adults engaged in Plus 50 initiatives at community colleges. Proposal was submitted November 27.
- November 7: Briefed Karen Kelley, new CISCO Corporate Program representative, on sponsorship options and expanded involvement with AACC.

Kathryn Mannes, Director, Center for Workforce and Economic Development

- October 4–5: Represented AACC as an Advisory Board member of Learning Counts, a CAEL Prior Learning Assessment Initiative funded by Lumina Foundation
- October 22: Represented AACC as NCCET Board liaison at National Council for Continuing Education and Training Board meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Also represented AACC at National Council for Workforce Education Board meeting in St. Louis, MO
- October 28: Represented AACC at Chicago Career Tech Launch Event, held at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.
- November 14: Visited Piedmont Virginia Technical College in Charlottesville, Virginia as part of the Benefits Access Project with the AACC and CLASP team.
- November 16: Chaired SkillsUSA Program Committee meeting as AACC Board member.
- November 21: Presented to group of Chinese visitors as part of AACC's VELT program, at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland, on workforce development, "green jobs," and the SEED Initiative.

Jim McKenney, Vice President of Workforce, Economic Development & International Programs:

- September 28–29: Joined Jen Worth, program manager, Workforce & Economic Development, at the Northeast Wisconsin Tech (Green Bay) meeting for AACC’s Mott Foundation-sponsored Virtual Incubator Project meeting.
- October 13–23: Participated in the China International Conference and visitations representing a U.S. community college delegation to U.S. Embassy in Beijing, as well as five colleges in four cities.
- October 3–7: Participated in the South African Delegation visit to Northern Virginia Community College, Frederick Community College (MD), and Burlington Community College (NJ).
- November 14–17: Represented AACC at the AOC annual meeting in the UK. Also did a one day stopover in Dublin at request of Irish Ministry of Education to reaffirm our MOU with that country.
- November 30: Represented AACC as a new member of the CompTia Workforce Development Committee at their Chicago headquarters.

Gail Robinson, Director of Service Learning and Interim Vice President for Academic, Student, and Community Development:

- October 12–15: Represented AACC at Association of American Colleges and Universities conference, “Educating for Personal and Social Responsibility,” in Long Beach, California.
- October 20: Represented AACC at the Department of Housing and Urban Development / Corporation for National and Community Service Higher Education Forum in Washington, DC.
- November 2 – 5: Represented AACC and presented two sessions at International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement annual conference in Chicago.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season. Have a great weekend!