

The American Association of Community Colleges Presidential Profile

Community colleges are an essential part of our recovery in the present, and our prosperity in the future.

President Barack Obama

The focus on the powerful potential of community colleges to serve our nation has never been stronger than it is today. As the most agile, forward thinking, and responsive segment of higher education, community colleges are poised to function as the lynchpin of economic recovery, training a workforce growing in skill, ability, and dedication and strengthening America's bonds with the rest of the world. Now the American Association of Community Colleges, the most powerful voice in the world speaking for community colleges, seeks a dynamic new leader to bring the story of community colleges to the forefront of political and public discourse. Based at AACC headquarters in Washington, D.C., the new President will work closely not only with the more than 1,200 member institutions, but also with the federal government and the other five members of "The Six" (the six major education-related associations).

Since its inception in 1920, The American Association of Community Colleges has provided the strongest advocacy of the community college ideals of accessibility, agility, relevance, and service to the community, and student success. Founded about 22 years after the start of the community college movement, the Association has served as the primary organization representing the interests and articulating the mission of community colleges to government, communities, employers, and secondary education. Today, the AACC serves more than 1,200 institutions enrolling more than 12 million students – almost half of all U.S. undergraduates.

**The Role of
AACC**

Building a Nation of Learners by Advancing America's Community Colleges

The above mission statement captures AACC's commitment to advance the recognition of the role of community colleges in serving society today. By providing advocacy, leadership, and services for community colleges, the Association will play a key role in assisting the nation as it passes from the industrial era of

the twentieth century to the new knowledge-based society of the twenty-first century.

The critical core factors that give AACC vitality and value are its abilities to

- Provide a national voice and advocacy for the community college mission;
- Serve as a national information resource;
- Create opportunities for peer networking and interaction at all levels, professional initiatives, dialogue, and community-building;
- Facilitate collaboration among AACC staff and stakeholders;
- Encourage a shared commitment to the community college movement;
- Offer leadership and career development opportunities.

AACC works cooperatively with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) in continuing its focus that community colleges are seen as a resource and need support and advocacy.

The new President must be dedicated to the following core values of the AACC. These core values, the essential and enduring tenets of the AACC, represent the set of beliefs on which the Association bases all its actions and policies. They provide the touchstones for important judgments and decisions to be made by AACC leadership and staff and provide the undergirding for how the organization operates both to accomplish its work and to achieve its vision.

Core Values

Integrity: AACC places fairness and honesty at the center of all of its policies and operations.

Excellence: AACC provides services and support of the highest quality to its member institutions.

Leadership: AACC promotes the development of community college leaders at all levels and creates opportunities for leadership among its staff.

Learning: AACC functions as a learning organization, continuously adapting and improving its services for learning in the field and ensuring that staff have the flexibility to meet a wide variety of member needs.

Diversity: AACC affirms that diversity is crucial to a democratic society, that diversity enriches the educational experience, and that diversity respects and celebrates differences among institutions and individuals alike.

Commitment: AACC advances the community college mission and the success of the students at its member colleges through the dedication of its leadership and staff.

Connectedness: AACC fosters a sense of community and responsiveness that supports the ability of its members to network locally, nationally, and internationally, to learn from each other, and to leverage their resources for action.

The five strategic action areas build on the current work of the Association and provide the paths by which the Association will link its mission and core values to fulfilling the vision defined for its future. Initiatives that pursue these strategic priorities will in turn foster the emergence of newer initiatives in the years ahead.

Strategic Action Areas

2007-2012

Strategic Action Area One: Recognition and Advocacy for Community Colleges

Strategic Action Area Two: Student Access, Learning and Success

Strategic Action Area Three: Community College Leadership Development

Strategic Action Area Four: Economic and Workforce Development

Strategic Action Area Five: Global and Intercultural Education

The American Association of Community Colleges employs approximately 60 staff members in five functional areas.

Structure

Government Relations and Public Policy, encompassing government relations, policy analysis, and research components;

Workforce Education and External Outreach, encompassing the Center for Workforce Education, international services, nursing and allied health services, and external outreach;

Communication and Institutional Development, encompassing marketing, public relations, publications, web content, meetings and council relations, fund development, and corporate relationships and partnerships;

Operations and Member Services, encompassing finance, human resources, information technology, web development, administrative services, and member/data services;

Academic Programs, encompassing Achieving the Dream, advanced technological education, service learning, diversity and inclusion, other academic projects, and leadership development.

The AACC Board authorizes six commissions. Each consists of an average of 24 people from member institutions who are CEOs/administrators, plus additional people from organizations who work in areas that are relevant to the specific commissions' specific charges. Commissions are advisory to AACC's Board and staff.

- Commission on Academic, Student and Community Development
- Commission on Communications & Marketing
- Commission on Diversity, Inclusion & Equity
- Commission on Economic and Workforce Development
- Commission on Global Education
- Commission on Research, Technology and Emerging Trends

Currently the membership of the Association exceeds 900, and includes colleges within the United States, international institutions, and other organizations that work with, serve, or benefit from relationships with the community college sector. AACC Education Associates and International Education Associates are institutions, organizations, associations, and councils that share affinity for the mission of AACC but are not themselves community colleges. The National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges, affiliated with AACC, provides a forum for the exchange of information about developments, trends, and problems in state systems of community colleges. Other national and international Affiliated Councils share common interests with community colleges.

Among affinity organizations with which the AACC maintains strong relationships are the other five members of "The Six," the major education-related associations headed by presidents: the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

The association has ongoing interaction with key federal departments and agencies including the U.S. departments of

Labor, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, Commerce, and the National Science Foundation.

AACC is governed by a 32-member Board of Directors, all of whom have key and historic involvement in community colleges. Twenty-four members are elected by AACC membership; eighteen are institutional members, and six come from councils affiliated with AACC. Three institutional at-large members and three public at-large members are appointed by the Board and bring to the governing body experience as college trustees. Board members serve three-year terms, with one-third rotating off annually. A Chairperson, who has already served a one-year term as Chair-elect, leads the Board. Following one year as Chair, that individual serves a final term as Former Chair.

Governance

The organizational constitution calls for an annual convention of the Association.

The AACC budget for 2010 includes income from membership dues; programs; product sales; workshops, seminars, and the annual convention; advertising and publication subscriptions; grants with a total budget of \$17 million. Grants make up approximately \$6.5 million of that total.

Finance

Funds in long-term investment total approximately \$7 million.

AACC's major expenses include personnel costs of approximately \$5 million; non-personnel-related costs of providing projects and services exceeding \$6 million, and costs related to management of meetings, seminars, and conventions of about \$1.25 million.

Dr. George C. Boggs has successfully led the AACC for ten years, achieving new levels of financial stability and service to membership. Now AACC seeks a successor to carry forward the impetus the organization has gained under Dr. Boggs's leadership. The new President will possess the vision to assess trends and develop proactive strategic plans, superior communications skills, the ability to passionately articulate the mission of the organization, and the talent to mobilize constituents on behalf of the community college mission. The new President will have or rapidly gain a comprehensive understanding of the current state of higher education,

The Presidency

particularly the community college sector. He or she will possess the courage, enthusiasm, and energy to work on a national stage, combined with the sensitivity to hear and understand the concerns of all constituencies of the community college segment.

The AACC is looking for a new President under whose leadership and advocacy the AACC can continue to provide preeminent leadership in supporting and advancing community colleges in this mission. This person will be critical in positioning the Association so that community colleges remain part of the solution to the future of our global economy.

Experience in the following areas will be important to carry out the responsibilities of the new President:

- Leading a complex organization
- Advocacy for and focusing attention at the national level on the powerful social and economic impact of community colleges
- Providing a strategic vision
- Working with Congress and administration at highest levels to influence policy development and legislation
- Fundraising – working with funders to articulate the community college case
- Development of a culturally competent organization
- Ability to galvanize/organize the field around critical issues
- Preparing an organization for and leading it into the future
- Maintaining personal contact with stakeholders such as member institutions and cultivating membership in the AACC
- Managing an organization with approximately 60 staff members and a budget of approximately \$17 million
- Working closely with, lending focus to, and taking direction from the 32-member Board of Directors
- Taking a leadership role in collaborative efforts with the other members of the six leading education-related associations
- Responding to financial and policy issues

Qualities that the AACC believes to be essential to carrying out these responsibilities include the following:

- A strong understanding of and passion for community colleges and their unique qualities of accessibility, focus on community needs, affordability, diversity, and flexibility
- Familiarity with the culture of government

- A strong public persona
- Conviction, commitment, energy, integrity, courage, and enthusiasm for community college education
- Ability to think strategically, plan, and prioritize
- Decisiveness
- Strong commitment to sustainability- triple bottom line of economy, environment and social justice
- Future/forward thinker
- Self-confidence and assertiveness
- Political prowess
- Experience in general management and personnel supervision
- Ability to balance internal and external functions
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills

Community colleges are an undervalued asset in our country.

Not only is that not right, it's not smart.

President Barack Obama

The Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges invites applications from all interested individuals. A letter of interest and C.V. or resume may be submitted to aaccpresident@rpainc.org using AACC Presidential Search in the subject line. The review of candidates will begin April 1, 2010. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. AACC is an equal opportunity employer.