



American Association of Community Colleges Highlights 2011

ADVOCACY

- AACC secured \$2 billion for the Community College and Career Training Grant Program in the budget reconciliation bill enacted in March 2010. This new Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program will provide \$500 million annually during the next four fiscal years to fund training and education programs at community colleges and other institutions that serve the needs of TAA-eligible workers.
- AACC continues to advocate for greater funding for Pell Grants for the 2.5 million community college students relying on these dollars to pay tuition and expenses.
- AACC worked for the budget reconciliation legislation that provides mandatory funding to boost the Pell Grant maximum in award years 2013–2014 through 2017–2018. The Pell Grant maximum award for FY 2010 is \$5,550.
- AACC promoted the inclusion of \$2.55 billion of additional funding for minority-serving institutions in the budget reconciliation bill. This includes \$100 million to Hispanic-serving institutions, \$85 million to historically Black colleges and universities, \$15 million to predominantly Black institutions, \$30 million to tribal colleges and universities, \$15 million to Alaska and Hawaiian Native institutions, \$5 million to Asian American and Pacific Islander institutions, and \$5 million to Native American non-tribal-serving institutions each year.
- AACC advocated for \$750 million for continuation of the College Access Challenge Grants in the budget reconciliation bill, with \$150 million in funding per year through FY 2014.
- In the FY 2010 appropriations, AACC secured increases in Title III-A, funding for sustainability education, and an increase in the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program, after funding was initially cut by the House.
- AACC has built effective relationships with the Obama administration, including with the White House; the Office of the Vice President; the Departments of Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, Energy, Treasury, State, and Agriculture; the National Science Foundation; and the Office of Management and Budget.
- AACC has expanded its capacity to respond to federal legislative, regulatory, and policy issues with timely data, analyses, and information such as AACC's fall 2009 enrollment survey. The quick survey data collections and analyses have bolstered AACC's advocacy efforts on behalf of the colleges.

STUDENT SUCCESS

- AACC is leading community college researchers, presidents, and leaders in an unprecedented effort to define the most appropriate measures to assess our colleges' effectiveness through the Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA). VFA will provide the community college sector with rigorous and clear measures of accountability.
- AACC is an integral partner in Achieving the Dream, focusing on community college student achievement, with an emphasis on low-income students and students of color. It engages more than 130 colleges in 24 states and the District of Columbia and serves more than one million students.
- AACC convened five other national community college organizations in April to sign a joint call to action commitment statement to increase student completion rates by 50% over 10 years.
- AACC launched the Minority Male Student Success Database in January 2010, enabling AACC member colleges to upload descriptive profiles of programs that focus on minority male student recruitment, mentoring, persistence, and completion.
- AACC's Plus 50 program expanded its efforts through webinars, several publications, and an electronic newsletter to assist colleges with this population.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

AACC works to maintain a strong and vital cadre of leaders in the nation's community colleges and provides professional development, educational sessions, top-notch speakers, and networking opportunities through

- Future Leaders Institute (FLI), FLI/Advanced, and FLI/Workforce Development Institute seminars. Of more than 600 FLI graduates, more than 275 have made career advancements, and 56 have become community college presidents.
- Washington Institute provides community college advocates a firsthand look at how Washington, DC, works with speakers from federal agencies, think tanks, and funders.
- Professional development is the cornerstone of AACC's Annual Convention with hundreds of educational sessions and unprecedented networking opportunities.
- For community college-based workforce service providers, the Workforce Development Institute (WDI) is an annual conference that aims to educate, invigorate, and motivate those who are new to workforce development as well as seasoned practitioners.

NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

- AACC has succeeded in seating a community college representative on and testifying before the Institute of Medicine Commission tasked with creating recommendations for change to nursing education and practice in a Future of Nursing study to be released in October 2010.
- AACC has demonstrated the value of associate degree education in discussions to mandate four-year degrees for associate degree registered nurses and to replace associate degree with bachelor's degree respiratory therapy programs.
- AACC was awarded a \$6.6 million grant from the U.S Department of Labor to create Healthcare Career Central, a national virtual career platform to assess capacity for successful completion of health professions study and match individuals with educational programs and job vacancies.

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- AACC has set a sustainability and green jobs agenda. The work of the SEED Initiative includes identifying and cataloging programs, resources, and best practices.
- AACC is supporting initiatives to advance small business and entrepreneurship through grants from Mott Foundation and Goldman Sachs Foundation.
- The 20 colleges funded through Walmart Foundation continue to provide leadership and innovative workforce and economic development solutions in rural communities, as well as at three urban locations.