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January 8, 2016

American Association of Community Colleges

Issue # 053



Dear ,
Happy New Year! 2016 promises to be exciting. In February, we'll hold our first Pathways Project working session, and in March, we'll meet with the pilot colleges selected for the Right Signals Initiative. There's a lot of work ahead of us, but I'm optimistic it will lead to great things for community colleges.



MUST READ

[“A Departing Chancellor Reflects on His Past”](#)

In this [21st Century Center Q&A](#), Rufus Glasper discusses his proudest achievements and greatest challenges during his tenure as chancellor of the Maricopa Community College District.

[“A Larger Window Shows More Student Success”](#)

Community college graduation rates over 4 years are significantly higher than on-time (2-year) graduation rates, according to new federal data. Get the details in this [Community College Daily](#) article.

MUST DO**Register for Convention by January 22**

Register for the [AACC Annual Convention](#) by January 22 to take advantage of early-bird rates. The 2016 convention will be held April 9–12 in Chicago, Illinois. This year's theme is "Our Camelot Moment: A New Day for Community Colleges."

Be Recognized at Hail & Farewell

The annual [Hail & Farewell Luncheon](#) will take place April 10 at AACC's convention. It's the association's opportunity to wish a fond farewell to retiring CEOs, as well as hail new and 25-year CEOs. To be recognized during the luncheon, send in a recognition form and headshot by February 29, 2016, 4:00 p.m. (ET).

Submit Applications for the Right Signals Initiative

The [Right Signals Initiative](#), funded by Lumina Foundation, aims to identify clear and connected credential practices to employers, students, and between and among community colleges. AACC is accepting applications from community colleges until January 29, 2016. Up to 20 colleges will be selected for \$60,000 and 1.5 years of collaboration and technical assistance.

MUST KNOW**AACC Board of Directors Election**

Voting for the AACC Board of Directors will begin February 1. In order to be eligible to vote, annual membership dues must be paid before that date. Not sure if your college has paid its dues? Contact [Wayne Horton](#) in Membership Services at 202-728-0200, ext. 236.

ED Hosts Webinar on Dual Enrollment Experiment

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid is hosting a webinar on January 13, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. (ET), for colleges interested in a dual enrollment experiment. The experiment will allow high school students in dual enrollment programs to gain access to Pell Grants. [Register for the free webinar.](#)

Did You Submit a Proposal for Convention?

Notification for accepted proposals for convention will go out on January 15, 2016. All presenters must register for the convention if the proposal is accepted. Submission of the proposal constituted that the presenter(s) understood that they would be required to register if the proposal was accepted. Presenters may opt to purchase a full convention registration, or a day-rate registration, selecting to register for the day that the proposal is scheduled to take place. If registration has not be completed and all applicable fees paid within 30 days of the convention, the session will be dropped from the convention program.



On January 15, I'll be in Santa Barbara, California, at Fielding Graduate University to accept the first Marie Fielder Medal.



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Pictured: Northwest Vista College (Texas)

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