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February 5, 2016

American Association of Community Colleges

Issue # 055



Dear ,

This week, our Gates-funded Pathways Project held its first meeting with the 30 colleges selected to participate. Though we have much work ahead of us, it's clear that our task of implementing guided academic and career pathways is in good hands. We'll have an update on the project and talk about pathways more in depth during a spotlight session at the AACC Annual Convention in April.



## MUST READ

### [White House Plan to Strengthen Community College–Business Partnerships](#)

Today, the Obama administration announced a new plan to cut taxes on businesses willing to work with community colleges to create or expand quality programs in in-demand fields. The proposed Community College Partnership Tax Credit builds on the administration's work to make training programs job-driven, and will enable graduates to acquire a more productive set of skills that are in demand by regional employers when they enter the local workforce. [This fact sheet](#) has all the details.

### [“Eligible Colleges Named for 2017 Aspen Prize”](#)

Last week, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named the 150 U.S. community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million in prize funds. Read more in [Community College Daily](#).

## Where Colleges Are in Their CBE Efforts

More than two-thirds of community colleges are in the planning stages of competency-based education. Get the details in the latest [DataPoints](#).

## “Meeting Demand of a Growing Field”

Houston Community College has teamed up with CVS in a registered apprenticeship program for pharmacy technicians. Read about the program in [this 21st Century Center article](#).

### MUST DO

## Vote in the AACC Board of Directors Election

Voting began Monday for the AACC Board of Directors and Presidents Academy Executive Committee elections. Separate e-mails were sent out with your voting credentials and with a link to the ballot. If you did not receive those, or are having trouble voting, please contact [Angel Royal](#). The deadline to vote is February 29 at 5:00 p.m. (ET).

### MUST KNOW

## Congratulations to the AACC Truman Award and Leadership Award Recipients

On April 9, during the opening session of the AACC Annual Convention, we'll honor four great leaders from the field. John E. Roueche will receive the Truman Award for his major, positive impact on community colleges. The three 2016 Leadership Award recipients are George R. Boggs, Brice Harris, and Wright Lassiter, Jr. We're grateful for their many contributions to America's community colleges.



**Where's Walter**

**I was in San Antonio, Texas, February 4-5 for a meeting of the Pathways Project.**



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Pictured: Community College of Allegheny County (Pennsylvania).

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