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February 19, 2016

American Association of Community Colleges

Issue # 056



Dear ,

I'm proud to say that college "promise" programs continue to grow. It seems that every week, I hear about more community colleges launching their own promise programs, and more states exploring ways to make community college free for responsible students. One college's new program is spotlighted below. Let's continue this momentum!



## MUST READ

### [New College Readiness Report](#)

AACC partnered with the Association of Community College Trustees and Higher Ed for Higher Standards on a new report, [Seizing the Moment: Community Colleges Collaborating with K-12 to Improve Student Success](#). The report calls on community college presidents and trustees to embrace the higher standards many K-12 school systems have adopted and implement strategies to increase college readiness and success.

### ["Making a Greater Promise"](#)

Wisconsin's Gateway Technical College is launching the Gateway Promise Program, a new initiative to benefit local, low-income high school seniors, with funding from SC Johnson. Read about the program in [Community College Daily](#).

### ["Student Success Centers Gain Traction"](#)

The Texas Success Center is helping the 50 Texas community colleges continue to grow and change together. Learn more at the [21st Century Center](#).

## MUST DO

### Vote in the AACC Board of Directors Election

There's still time to vote in the AACC Board of Directors and Presidents Academy Executive Committee elections. E-mails were sent out earlier this month 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).

### Sign Up for an AACC Commission

AACC commissions were established to provide advice to the AACC board and staff, to encourage collaboration among community college entities and organizations, and to provide a forum for focused conversation about the important issues and priorities of the day. Now is the time to [sign up](#) for one of the six commissions.

### Register for PASI

The AACC [Presidents Academy Summer Institute](#) (PASI) will take place July 16–19, 2016, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Registration and lodging information is now available.

## MUST KNOW

### High Performance Team Training

The next AACC [High Performance Team Training](#) session will take place April 6–9 in Chicago, Illinois, in advance of the AACC Annual Convention. Go to [AACC's website](#) to learn how to apply.

### 2016 Outstanding Alumni

The AACC Outstanding Alumni Award recipients have been selected. [Find out](#) who they are on AACC's website. They'll be honored at the closing plenary brunch at the convention on April 12.



Where's Walter

On February 18, I traveled to Hillsborough



**Community College in Tampa, Florida, to provide greetings and opening remarks for the 10th anniversary of Black, Brown and College Bound Summit, hosted by AACC Past Board Chair Ken Atwater. This morning, I traveled to Myrtle Beach to provide a keynote address to the South Carolina Technical Educators Association.**

**STAY CONNECTED**

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Pictured: Black, Brown and College Bound Summit at Hillsborough Community College (Florida).

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