

From: Walter Bumphus
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December 16, 2016

American Association of Community Colleges

Issue # 077



Dear Tina,

As 2016 comes to an end, I've been reflecting on our successes. While we have made great gains as a sector, there is still much work to be done. In 2017, I have great confidence that our colleges will build on 2016's successes, most notably the gains that we have made toward our 2020 completion goal. I am so proud of the innovation taking place in colleges throughout the country on developmental education redesign, strengthening collaboration with K-12 institutions to improve college readiness, and the improvement of organizational strategies to enhance the overall student experience. In 2017, AACC will continue to advocate on the federal level for those issues that are most important to our students and colleges. We will continue to serve as your "voice" and convener around key trends and issues that impact our sector. On behalf of AACC Board of Directors and the staff, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



The next CEO to CEO Newsletter will be distributed January 13.

MUST READ

["Smooth Pathways Require Faculty Leadership"](#)

As community colleges work on developing guided career pathways—to help students stay on track with fewer wasted credits—they're finding faculty buy-in is crucial. Learn about it in [Community College Daily](#).

“Grants Lead to Tuition-Free Training”

More than \$111 million in America’s Promise grants was awarded to 23 regional workforce partnerships across the country to connect more than 21,000 Americans to education and in-demand jobs. Read how some colleges will use the grant funds in this [21st Century Center post](#).

MUST DO

Register for the AACC Annual Convention

At the [97th AACC Annual Convention](#), you’ll hear from leadership expert Robin Sharma, youth advocate and business leader Wes Moore, and *Today* show contributor and author Jenna Bush Hager. Don’t miss out. [Register now](#). Early-bird rates end January 27.



Where's Walter

On December 13, my wife, Dr. Aileen Bumphus, and I attended President and Mrs. Obama’s final Christmas Party at the White House. We were pleased to see a number of familiar faces in attendance, and we were appreciative of having the opportunity to extend our well wishes to the president and first lady.



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Pictured: Prairie State College (Illinois)

One Dupont Circle, NW | Suite 410 | Washington, DC 20036 | 202.728.0200 | www.aacc.nche.edu