AACC Letter

December 2, 2011
Issue #776

Policy and Advocacy

1. KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACCOUNTABILITY
This week, AACC released the Voluntary Framework of Accountability Metrics Manual Version 1.0. The Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) is the first-ever national framework designed to measure how 2-year colleges perform in serving their more than 13 million students. The VFA Metrics Manual provides community colleges with a roadmap to achieving greater and more rigorous accountability with clearly defined measures and methodologies piloted and field-tested by community colleges. The first release of the manual is especially timely in light of the fact that the Committee on Measures of Student Success (CMSS) also this week finalized its recommendations to ED on establishing more accurate measures for evaluating the performance of 2-year colleges, particularly in the area of completion rates. CMSS’s report underscores the fact that the graduation rate calculation used by ED has failed to accurately capture the real performance of our institutions. Although AACC does not concur with all of CMSS’s findings, it does find the report to provide clear guidance to the federal government on how to gather and publicize more accurate community college performance data. (See AACC’s statement in response to the CMSS report and its press release on publication of the manual.)
AACC Contacts: David Baime (CMSS) and Kent Phillippe (VFA)

2. PRESIDENTS ACADEMY NEEDS YOUR EXPERTISE IN 2012
Now is your opportunity to nominate yourself or another AACC member president to serve on AACC’s Presidents Academy Executive Committee. In addition to supporting AACC’s mission and goals, the Presidents Academy is a forum for discussion and consideration of matters relating to the responsibilities of the chief community colleges administrators. The Academy provides in-service professional development programs for chief executive administrators and expresses points of view of its membership to AACC. Vacancies are anticipated in states in four of the five regions (central, northern, pacific, and western). Send nominations by February 15, 2012, to Shirley Reed, chair of the nominating committee.
AACC Contact: Angel Royal

3. NEW DOD REQUIREMENT FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Effective January 1, 2012, all postsecondary institutions that participate in the Department of Defense (DOD) Tuition Assistance (TA) Program must complete, sign, and submit a memorandum of
understanding (MOU). Institutions that do not sign the DOD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU by this date will not be eligible to participate in the TA Program. The DOD MOU website has requirements, sample MOUs, and a checklist for submitting the documents. AACC Contact: Molly Middlehurst

4. LEARN ABOUT FEDERAL PROGRAMS HELPING RURAL COMMUNITIES

You are invited to join the Rural Community College Alliance and AACC on a conference call at 3:00 p.m. (ET) on December 15 with representatives of the U.S. Departments of Education and Agriculture. John White, the ED’s deputy assistant secretary for Rural Outreach; Cheryl Cook, the deputy under secretary for USDA Rural Development; and Sam Morgan, a program analyst for USDA’s Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, will describe collaborative efforts and focus on educational resources available through USDA. They will highlight key programs and take your questions and comments. AACC Contact: Laurie Quarles

Grants and Partnerships

5. APPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Higher Education for Development (HED) has issued three requests for applications (RFAs).

- **Job Opportunities for Business Scale-Up** for Mindanao. Up to $1,071,500 will be awarded for a 3-year partnership between a U.S. higher education institution and Southern Christian College in Mindanao, Philippines. Deadline is February 29, 2012. An online information session will be held December 7 at 6:30 p.m. (ET). Register by contacting Brooks Marmon.

- **Energy and Climate Partnership** of the Americas/Caribbean Region Climate Adaptation Partnership Initiative. Up to $770,500 will be awarded for a 3-year partnership between a U.S. higher education institution and the University of the West Indies/Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies. Deadline is February 22, 2012. An online information session will be held December 12 at 1:30 p.m. (ET). Register by contacting Brooks Marmon.

- **Tunisia: Job Opportunities for Business Scale-Up 2011**. Up to $500,000 will be awarded for three 3-year partnerships between a U.S. higher education institution and (1) the Institut Supérieur des Etudes Technologiques de Sidi Bouzid, (2) the Institut Supérieur des Etudes Technologiques de Médenine, and (3) the Institut Supérieur des Etudes Technologiques de Tataouine. Deadline is February 15, 2012. An online information session will be held December 6 at 11:00 a.m. (ET). To register, contact Curtis Hudson.

AACC Contact: Alice Blayne-Allard

6. HERE COMES THE SUN

The U.S. Department of Energy’s SunShot Initiative will award up to $7 million to support development of data-driven software tools, streamlined processes, and innovative approaches to reducing nonhardware, or "soft" costs, such as installation, permitting, interconnection, and inspection. Concept paper applications are due by January 16, 2012. AACC Contact: Kathy Mannes
Program Initiatives

7. MLK DAY OF SERVICE
Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" AACC encourages member colleges to plan activities for the next Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service on January 16, 2012. A variety of resources are available online, including toolkits for planning small- or large-scale community projects and webinars on fundraising and media strategies for MLK Day events.
AACC Contact: Gail Robinson

News and Social Media

8. "ELECTRONIC MAPPING HELPS COLLEGES TARGET CAMPAIGNS"
Community colleges increasingly are turning to electronic mapping to reach targeted audiences for a variety of purposes, including enrollment, fundraising, fee-related initiatives, and marketing. Read more about it in Community College Times.
AACC Contact: Matt Dembicki

9. "SAFETY FIRST: COLLEGES TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO CAMPUS SECURITY"
Read about emerging technologies designed to help administrators take a proactive approach to campus security in the October/November digital Community College Journal. All AACC members have free access with a simple login. Read, download, or print stories, and share articles with your colleagues electronically.
AACC Contact: Sarah Lawler

Resources

10. CORE INDICATORS OF EFFECTIVENESS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES, 3RD EDITION
Find new ways to pinpoint and measure effectiveness for completion. Read a full description, preview book, and order online here. Or call 800-250-6557.
AACC Contact: Sarah Lawler

11. OPENING THE DOOR TO EDUCATION FOR FOSTER AND HOMELESS YOUTH
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the California Community College Chancellor’s Office, and Casey Family Programs have released Providing Effective Financial Aid Assistance to Students from Foster Care and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Version 2.0), an updated guide for compliance with the current FAFSA. The publication provides information for anyone who helps youth from foster care and unaccompanied homeless youth to secure financial aid for postsecondary education or training programs. For additional information, contact John Emerson.
AACC Contact: Kevin Christian

12. TAKE ACTION WITH NEW CCCIE REPORT
The Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education (CCCIE) has released a new report, Increasing Opportunities for Immigrant Students: Community College Strategies for Success. The report provides numerous case study examples and offers recommendations for action and investment
for community college leaders and practitioners, policymakers, and funders. The report also describes a Framework for Supporting Immigrant Student Success that identifies 11 key factors contributing to the innovations and promising practices of CCCIE member colleges. For more information on the report, contact Jill Casner-Lotto.

AACC Contact: Kevin Christian

**Events and Services**

**13. COME TO WDI FOR WARM WEATHER AND HOT TOPICS**

Designed as a comprehensive program for community college-based workforce service providers, the Workforce Development Institute will educate, invigorate, and motivate those who are new to workforce development as well as seasoned practitioners. Take part in preconference workshops, exhibitors, college tours, and more, January 25–28, 2012, in Miami, Florida.

AACC Contact: Richard Anthony

**14. ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR AACC CONVENTION**

You can now register online for the 92nd Annual AACC Convention. Save money by registering before January 23, 2012. Check out the online registration page for registration and rate information. The 2012 convention will be held April 21–24 in Orlando, Florida.

AACC Contact: Delinda Frazier

**15. REGISTER FOR THE BLACK, BROWN AND COLLEGE BOUND CONFERENCE**


AACC Contact: Kevin Christian