AACC Letter

December 16, 2011
Issue #777

Policy and Advocacy

1. CONGRESS FINALIZING FY 2012 FUNDING
Congressional appropriators are wrapping up work on a final FY 2012 measure that includes funding for key community college priorities. With only 3 of the 12 spending bills enacted, this final package includes funding for education, job training, and many other federal programs. While it appears that the negotiations on the bill are done, a vote on the bill has been postponed pending other legislation. Congress is expected to vote on this final FY 2012 measure next week. Keep checking the AACC Advocacy page for the latest news.
AACC Contact: Laurie Quarles

2. PRESIDENTS ACADEMY IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN
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 Roy

3. GATES FOUNDATION SEEKS YOUR INPUT
The Gates Foundation is seeking input from community college presidents on their perceptions of the completion agenda, as well as identifying barriers and opportunities for improving completion. Click here to complete the survey. To view the original invitation to the survey, click here.
AACC Contact: Kent Phillippe

Grants and Partnerships

4. EMERGENCY STUDENT FUND FOR THAI STUDENTS
Help Thai students on your campus who may be unable to continue or complete their degree programs due to financial hardships resulting from the recent flooding in their homeland. An emergency fund
administered by Institute of International Education (IIE) will provide grants ranging from $2,000 to $5,000 to Thai students experiencing financial difficulties. For your Thai students to receive an emergency assistance grant, an international student adviser or other campus officials at your college must nominate the needy students; students themselves cannot apply directly to the fund. First round funding deadline is December 19, 2011.

AACC Contact: Alice Blayne-Allard

5. BOOST YOUR SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS
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

6. HONORING CEOS AT HAIL AND FAREWELL
The AACC Presidents Academy is honoring retiring CEOs, first-time CEOs, and CEOs who have served for at least 25 years and have not been previously honored. If you fall into one of these categories, the Hail & Farewell Luncheon is your chance to receive your well-deserved recognition. The luncheon occurs during the AACC Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida, on April 22. Let us know you want to be recognized by completing a Hail & Farewell Recognition Form. Forms are due no later than February 17, 2012.

AACC Contact: Tabitha Whissemore

7. DOES YOUR COLLEGE HAVE AN EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC ADVISING PROGRAM?
AACC, in cooperation with the National Council for Student Development and the National Council of Instructional Administrators, is working with Terry O’Banion, president emeritus of the League for Innovation in the Community College, to identify the most outstanding or exemplary academic advising programs in the nation’s community colleges to be featured in a monograph. Nominate a program for consideration by sending the name and e-mail address of the key staff contact to Terry O’Banion by February 10. A panel of experts from NCSD and NCIA will make the final selections.

AACC Contact: Norma Kent

8. STUDENTS’ OPPORTUNITY TO FLY HIGH
The National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, in partnership with NanoRacks LLC, is pleased to announce the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program’s Mission 2 to the International Space Station. This opportunity provides students across a community the ability to design and propose real experiments to fly in low Earth orbit on the space station. Community implementation plans are currently being accepted for a limited number of reserved mini-lab slots.

AACC Contact: Ellen Hause

News and Social Media
9. "VALENCIA COLLEGE RECEIVES ASPEN PRIZE"
Florida's Valencia College received the inaugural Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, which comes with a $600,000 award. "Finalists with distinction" were Lake Area Technical Institute, Miami Dade College, Walla Walla Community College, and West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Read more about it in Community College Times. AACC Contact: Matt Dembicki

10. "MD. COLLEGES ADVANCE COMPLETION AGENDA"
Presidents, administrators, deans, and faculty members from Maryland's 16 community colleges explored strategies for advancing the completion agenda and shared best practices at the second annual statewide Summit on Completion. Read about the summit in Community College Times. AACC Contact: Ellie Ashford

Resources

11. ENGAGING STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM
Read more about engaging students and developing their skills when you combine the theory and practice in Effective Teaching: A Guide for Community College Instructors. This guide is filled with free resources. Full description and preview available. Order online or call 800-250-6557. AACC Contact: Sarah Lawler

12. TOOLS TO HELP COLLEGES FOCUS ON THE TRADES
To help community colleges promote skilled trades training and career opportunities, AACC, with support from W.W. Grainger, Inc.—a leading broad-line supplier of facilities maintenance products—launched Trades in Focus, an awareness campaign and online education toolkit. AACC member colleges are using the toolkit to reach out to potential students and employers and to forge connections with business and industry, community leaders, and media. AACC Contact: Carolina Zumarán-Jones

Events and Services

13. FROM WORKFORCE TRAINING TO COLLEGE LEADERSHIP
Future Leaders Seminar is an intensive one-and-a-half day seminar held January 24–25, 2012, in Miami, Florida. It's designed for workforce training and continuing education professionals looking to move into a higher level of leadership. This institute offers practical lessons and scenarios as well as the opportunity to network with the nation's rising community college leaders. Held in conjunction with AACC's Workforce Development Institute. AACC Contact: Angel Royal

14. GET INSPIRED WITH PRECONVENTION WORKSHOPS
How has fundraising been affected by the current economy? Wondering how to green your campus? What can your college do to build an engaged citizenry? Attend a preconvention workshop to learn about these topics and more. Held April 20 and 21, 2012, in Orlando, Florida, these workshops are the perfect way to kick off the AACC Annual Convention. Register online. Earlybird savings deadline is
January 23.

AACC Contact: Tavia Cummings

15. ITC HOSTS DISTANCE LEARNING CONFERENCE
Register to attend eLearning 2012 on February 18–21, 2012, in Long Beach, California. Be a part of the friendliest and most comprehensive annual distance learning conference for eLearning practitioners. Learn about new and innovative educational strategies and technologies that work, and successful, tried-and-true techniques to teach at a distance. Topics will include assessment and quality control, blended and hybrid courses, eLearning policy, retaining online students, serving adult learners and military students, and using Web 2.0 applications (blogs, Google, Facebook, Twitter, etc.). The conference is sponsored by the Instructional Technology Council (ITC) and hosted by Coastline Community College.
AACC Contact: Mary Heiss

16. USDLA CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSALS
The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) is pleased to announce the 2012 Annual Conference Call for Proposals. Proposals are now being accepted based on the conference theme, "25 Years of Excellence—From the Margin to the Mainstream." Topics on distance education should be related to excellence, leadership, and best practices; emerging strategies; global delivery and mobile learning; ethics and copyright; or administrative issues and concerns. The conference is April 29–May 2, 2012, in St. Louis, Missouri. Deadline for submissions is December 16.
AACC Contact: Tabitha Whissemore

17. AMATYC 2012 CONFERENCE PROPOSALS
The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) is now accepting proposals to present at its annual conference, to be held in Jacksonville, Florida, November 8–11, 2012. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2012. Contact AMATYC president Jim Roznowski for more information.
AACC Contact: Gail Robinson