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# NEWSLETTER

January 5, 2016

From the Desk of Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO

Issue #853

American Association of  
Community Colleges

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## AACC STAFF

## MEMBERSHIP

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE DAILY

An educational center that offers classes from South Dakota's public universities is looking to expand and refocus its offering of 2-year associate degrees, partly in response to industry's desire for a more highly educated workforce.

[► Read More](#)

### SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

AACC is preparing the 2016 Membership Directory and wants to put member colleges on the cover. [Send in](#) your college photos by January 18 for a chance to be featured on the directory cover. Photos should be 4-color and sized at 300 dpi. If your photo is not chosen for the cover, we may still use it on our website or in our newsletters.



## POLICY and ADVOCACY

### 1. NEW DATA ON GRADUATION RATES

Community college graduation rates over 4 years are significantly higher than on-time (2-year) graduation, according to [new federal data](#). When looking at a 2-year period, the graduation rate of full-time, first-time students attending public 2-year colleges was 11.3% percent for the 2010 cohort year, according to new U.S. Education Department data. When the period was doubled to 4 years, the graduation rate jumped to 26.7%. Get more information [online](#).

AACC Contact: [Jolanta \(J.J.\) Juskiewicz](#)

## PROGRAM INITIATIVES

### 2. ARE YOU SENDING THE RIGHT SIGNALS?

The [Right Signals Initiative](#) aims to identify clear and connected credential practices to employers, students, and between and among community colleges. Funded by Lumina Foundation, AACC is accepting applications from community colleges until January 29, 2016. Up to 20 colleges will be selected for \$60,000 and 1.5 years of collaboration and technical assistance.

AACC Contact: [Jen Worth](#)

### 3. HAVE YOUR COLLEGE PROFILED ON AACC'S WEBSITE

Let us spotlight your college on our website! The Community College Spotlight offers member colleges an opportunity to have their institution featured on the home page of the [AACC website](#). This is a free member benefit.

AACC Contact: [Tina Henry-Barrus](#)

## GRANTS and PARTNERSHIPS

### 4. COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

The National Science Foundation (NSF), in partnership with AACC, invite teams of community college students to participate in the second annual [Community College Innovation Challenge](#). Teams should identify key problems at the nexus of food, energy and water systems, propose innovative solutions, and submit their ideas. Deadline for submissions: February 15, 2016.

AACC Contact: [Ellen Hause](#)

## NEWS and SOCIAL NETWORKING

### 5. "BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION"

Apprenticeships provide earning and learning opportunities. Read about it in the December/January digital [Community College Journal](#). All staff on AACC member campuses have free access to the digital magazine with a [simple login](#).

AACC Contact: [Tabitha Whissemore](#)

### 6. "ARKANSAS LOTTERY-FINANCED SCHOLARSHIP CUTOFF SET TO RISE"

Arkansans applying for the lottery-financed Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships face new eligibility requirements and, if they meet them, will be awarded smaller amounts during their first year of college. Read about it in [Community College Daily](#).

## 21ST CENTURY CENTER

First-year experiences at two community colleges lead to student engagement and success. [Read more.](#)



AACC Contact: [Matt Dembicki](#)

### 7. "A LOOK BACK AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN 2015"

The [21st Century Center](#) features 2015 highlights from the community college world.

AACC Contact: [Martha Parham](#)

## RESOURCES

### 8. INTERESTED IN A DUAL ENROLLMENT EXPERIMENT?

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid is hosting a webinar on January 13, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. (ET) for colleges interested in a dual enrollment experiment. The experiment will allow high school students in dual enrollment programs to gain access to Pell Grants. [Register](#) for the free webinar.

AACC Contact: [Laurie Quarles](#)

## EVENTS and SERVICES

### 9. REGISTER NOW FOR THE AACC CONVENTION AND SAVE MONEY

The [AACC Annual Convention](#) will be held April 9–12, 2016, in Chicago, Illinois. Register by January 15 to get the early-bird rate.

AACC Contact: [Angel Royal](#)

### 10. JOIN AACC IN NEW ORLEANS FOR WDI 2016

AACC's [Workforce Development Institute](#) continues to be a pre-eminent opportunity for in-depth exchanges and networking for economic and workforce leaders at community colleges and their partners. Join us January 20–23, 2016, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Online registration is closed, but onsite registration will be available.

AACC Contact: [Jen Worth](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### 11. SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR NCBA–NE

The National Council on Black American Affairs–NE Region (NCBA–NE) will host its 2016 conference March 17–18, at Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey. This year's conference theme, Changing Faces of the American Community College, aims to bring light to diversity and inclusion efforts at community colleges with respect to changing modes of delivery, technology, and learning styles. [Submit proposals](#) by January 8.

AACC Contact: [Kevin Christian](#)

### 12. STEM STUDENT FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Applications are being accepted for the National Institute of Standards and Technology's [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#) (SURF) program in Maryland. SURF is for students majoring in science, math, and engineering. Note that applications for participation are only accepted from colleges or universities, and not from individual students. Deadline for applications: February 12, 2016.

AACC Contact: [Jim Hermes](#)

### 13. SUMMER MEDICAL AND DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Community college students are invited to apply for a free 6-week academic summer enrichment program through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The [Summer Medical and Dental Education Program](#) (SMDEP) is for college freshman and sophomore students who are interested in the field of medicine or dentistry. Deadline to apply: March 1, 2016.

AACC Contact: [Kevin Christian](#)

Building a Nation of Learners by Advancing America's Community Colleges

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