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NEWSLETTER

February 7, 2017

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

Issue #866

American Association of
Community Colleges

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AACC STAFF

MEMBERSHIP

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DAILY

The number of students earning their first undergraduate degree—both associate and bachelor's degrees—in 2015-16 declined by 1.4% from the previous year, according to a new report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

[▶ Read More](#)

DATAPPOINTS

Community colleges' non-degree programs overwhelmingly pass the new federal gainful employment test. Get the details in [DataPoints](#).



PRE-CONVENTION SESSIONS

Get a jump on the AACC Convention and gain new

POLICY and ADVOCACY

1. HIGHER ED WEIGHS IN ON IMMIGRATION ORDER

AACC, along with many community colleges, has signed onto [two letters](#) sent by the American Council on Education to Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly expressing concerns with President Trump's executive order on immigration. The [first letter](#), signed by 50 higher education associations, also asks the secretary for a meeting to discuss the Department of Homeland Security's plans for implementing the order, officially titled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." The [letter](#) signed by 600 institutions is a focused statement of general concerns with the order. Both letters describe the actual and potential negative impact the order would have on international students and scholars, as well as the broader damage such an order might inflict on the benefits that flow to the nation from international exchange. A federal district court in Washington has temporarily halted enforcement of the executive order, with further court proceedings to come in the very near future.

AACC Contact: [David Baime](#)

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

2. REGISTER FOR THE AACC CONVENTION

Register now for the [97th Annual AACC Convention](#). Join us in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 22–25 for the premier community college event of the year. View the [schedule online](#) so you can plan your itinerary. Featured speakers include leadership expert Robin Sharma, youth advocate and business leader Wes Moore, and television personality and author Jenna Bush Hager.

AACC Contact: [Angel Royal](#)

3. SERVE ON AN AACC COMMISSION

If you want to get more involved on the national level, sign up to join one of nine commissions. CEOs, vice presidents/vice chancellors, associate/assistant vice presidents/vice chancellors, and provosts from AACC member colleges are eligible to apply. Appointments range from 1 to 3 years. Commissions meet twice a year, and have access to information on the latest trends and issues affecting community colleges. [Sign up today](#). The deadline for applying for a commission appointment is May 5.

AACC Contact: [Angel Royal](#)

4. 2017 AACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PRESIDENTS ACADEMY ELECTIONS

Voting is now open for member CEOs to elect new AACC directors and members of the Presidents Academy Executive Committee in February. Voting credentials were emailed on January 30, and ballots were sent from aacc@simplyvoting.com. Your college's membership must be current to receive your voting credentials and your ballot.

AACC Contact: [Angel Royal](#)

5. SHOW YOUR DATA SOME LOVE WITH VFA

The Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) is now a part of your membership. [Activate today](#) and show your data some love. Whether you're preparing for accreditation reporting, looking to do some meaningful strategic planning, or just want numbers that truly reflect the community college student, VFA is the only national system and data tool with comprehensive measures of community college performance. Now, more than ever, your participation is critical. It's easy to [activate](#) and lend your voice to the national discussion of student success in community colleges.

AACC Contact: [Bernadette Holloway](#)

leadership skills by attending a [pre-convention session](#).



6. AACC CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AACC honors the significant contributions and achievements that Black Americans have made in U.S. and world history. We are interested in learning what our colleges are doing to celebrate Black History Month. Please share what your campus is doing by emailing [Kevin Christian](#), AACC's senior program associate for diversity, inclusion, and equity.

AACC Contact: [Kevin Christian](#)

GRANTS and PARTNERSHIPS

7. DON'T WAIT TO INNOVATE!

AACC, in partnership with the National Science Foundation, is hosting its third annual [Community College Innovation Challenge](#) (CCIC) competition. The CCIC invites community college students to work with a faculty mentor and an industry partner to craft innovative, STEM-based solutions for real world problems in the categories of Maker-to-Manufacturer; Energy and the Environment; and Security Technologies. Ten community colleges will be selected as finalists and will receive travel support to attend an Innovation Boot Camp, June 12–15, 2017. Finalist teams will display their challenge projects at a Capitol Hill reception and have the opportunity to meet and engage with members of Congress, key congressional staffers, and other STEM leaders. The top two teams will receive cash prizes. Deadline to apply: February 15.

AACC Contact: [Ellen Hause](#)

NEWS and SOCIAL NETWORKING

8. "MORE COLLEGES USE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES"

At Maricopa Community College, students and faculty are more engaged in teaching and learning in courses that use open educational resources (OER), which are free or low-cost teaching and learning materials, and students are more likely to complete degrees faster. Learn more about OER in [Community College Daily](#).

AACC Contact: [Matthew Dembicki](#)

9. "THE LATEST ON CAMPUS CARRY LAWS"

An update on which states are allowing—or close to allowing—guns on campuses, at the [21st Century Center](#).

AACC Contact: [Tabitha Whissemore](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

10. STRENGTHING COLLEGE TRANSITION IN STATE ESSA PLANS

Leaders of the newly established College in High School Alliance will share guidance for states and school districts on how to incorporate early college high school and dual and concurrent enrollment into their Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plans in a [free webinar](#) on February 15, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. (ET).

AACC Contact: [Tammy Reichelt](#)

11. MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS' COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WEBINAR

The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) is excited to kick-off the minority-serving institutions' Community of Practice (CoP) initiative. Join faculty and staff from minority-serving institutions for a [webinar](#) on February 16 to learn about the benefits of the Community of Practice participation and to share ideas for engaging members and designing activities to maximize member involvement. For more information, contact [Laura Rasmussen Foster](#).

AACC Contact: [Kevin Christian](#)

12. AACU'S DIVERSITY, LEARNING, AND STUDENT SUCCESS CONFERENCE

The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) invites community colleges to attend its [2017 Diversity, Learning, and Student Success Conference](#), March 16–18, in Jacksonville, Florida. The conference will engage participants in exploring how the individual and collective voices of students, faculty, staff, and community partners can be catalysts for transformative campus and social change.

AACC Contact: [Kevin Christian](#)

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

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