Nearly one-third (30 percent) of sitting community college CEOs were CEOs of another community college in their previous job, according to a recent American Council on Education survey examining institutional leadership across colleges and universities. Another 41 percent of community college presidents were the chief academic officer/provost or held other senior executive academic positions prior to their current presidency. Seventeen percent of presidents came from a non-academic senior campus executive position. The data also show that more than 10 percent of community college CEOs came to the top position from jobs outside of higher education. According to the survey, about a quarter of CEOs were internal hires — their immediate past position was at the same college. The American Association of Community Colleges will soon conduct its biennial community college CEO compensation survey.

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