

Convening on College and Career Readiness

October 13-14, 2019



Convening on College and Career Readiness



K-12 and postsecondary education leaders from across the United States gathered in Washington, D.C., on October 13-14, 2019, to discuss ways to improve college and career readiness for all students. As part of an ongoing series of convenings hosted by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and AASA, The School Superintendents Association, the meeting brought together community college presidents, school district superintendents, executive leadership from both associations, and students and partners in the education field. Participants explored new opportunities and effective strategies to put college and career success within reach for all students, with a focus on youth apprenticeships and the ways that districts and community colleges can work together to advance career opportunities for K-12 students.

This meeting summary provides an overview of the conversations, recounts the presentations and information shared by convening participants, and highlights the main takeaways from two days of insightful discussions.





Walter G. Bumphus, president and CEO of AACC, and Dan Domenech, executive director of AASA, opened the convening, welcoming participants and emphasizing the important function these semi-annual meetings serve in helping to improve college readiness and respond to the needs of students. Domenech highlighted the sustained dialogue that the meetings have fostered, and the collaborative spirit among district superintendents and community college presidents that has grown tremendously since their first joint meeting in June 2014.

Domenech also commented on the progress made in recent years in the practices of dual enrollment courses, noting that the number of students graduating with an associate degree in high school is rising significantly. He framed the forthcoming conversations around the topic of youth apprenticeships, a focus area of increasing importance for both community colleges and school districts.

Following these opening comments, Bumphus introduced the assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE), Scott Stump.

Stump described OCTAE's most recent efforts to create and widen multiple pathways of education, including the passage of The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). This legislation is especially relevant to those because it will require conversations between secondary and post-secondary institutions about how best to use funds for career and technical education (CTE) in their respective states.



In keeping with the meeting's focus on apprenticeships, Stump described several new initiatives from OCTAE, including Department of Education Pathways to STEM Apprenticeship for High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Students. Stump also highlighted new transparency reforms at the Department of Education.

The first day also featured a presentation centered on an inspiring partnership in southwest Wisconsin between Elkhorn Area School District and the local community college network, Gateway Technical College. The partnership provides opportunities for youth apprenticeships and dual enrollment. From Gateway Technical College, President Bryan Albrecht and Katie Graf, assistant director for college access partnerships, presented alongside Jason Tadlock, superintendent of Elkhorn Area School District and Jo Anne Pella, career and technical education coordinator at Elkhorn High School.

The presenters provided a detailed overview of how they work together to make earning dual

credit in high school seamless and meaningful for K-12 students. Gateway provides seven different pathways for K-12 students to earn credit, including youth apprenticeships, transcribed credit, on-site courses on Gateway's campus, as well as online courses.

In a follow-up discussion after the presentation, participants noted that the role of career and technical education coordinator was a key success factor that could be helpful for other school districts. Career and technical education coordinators act as liaisons among employers and community colleges, building key relationships and facilitating the school experience, especially as school counselors are increasingly stretched thin.

GRADUATING WITH CREDENTIALS

Elkhorn Area School District Superintendent Brad Tadlock emphasized the district's intention of having all of its students graduate from high school with at least one post-secondary credential—thanks to its partnership with Gateway—will help any student in their future career readiness, no matter their plans for after graduation.

SPOTLIGHT:

Gateway Technical College and Elkhorn Area High School

In partnership with Gateway Technical College, Elkhorn Area High School was able to enroll 25 of its students in the youth apprenticeship program last school year. Gateway works with school career coordinators to identify willing employers to take in apprentices and facilitates mentor training. These apprenticeship programs are funded by a grant from the state's Department of Workforce Development and require at least 450 hours of work in one year.

In order to demonstrate the value of Gateway and Elkhorn's partnership, two students from Elkhorn Area High School, Noah Henry and Jacob Smith, presented on their experiences so far in their apprenticeships. Henry is in a manufacturing apprenticeship, which he believes will be helpful for him as he moves forward in a career as a machinist and future business owner. Likewise, Smith's apprenticeship is smoothing his path to success in his chosen career. The hours Smith is working as part of his youth plumbing apprenticeship accrue towards the five years of apprenticeship he needs to become a certified plumber after he graduates from high school.

Partnerships for Student Success

The second day of the convening featured two presentations that provided valuable insights regarding high-impact partnerships among school districts and community colleges. Representatives from Pewaukee School District and Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) in Waukesha, Wisconsin, were the first to present. Mike Cady, superintendent of Pewaukee School District, described the need to consider and evaluate the ways school systems serve students in terms

of the future of our economy, as more high-wage jobs will need some form of accreditation that can be offered by community colleges, or potentially earned while in high school. In its dual enrollment academy, WCTC currently hosts 14 Pewaukee High School students in six career areas—including firefighter/EMT, early childhood education, and information technology—where students are working directly in their field while earning credit. These programs are fully funded by local employers and the state, and are based on employer demand.

GRADUATE PROFILES:

In order to best serve its students’ needs in the rapidly changing economy, Pewaukee developed a graduate profile, which outlines the expectations of what competencies students should have upon graduation, and includes indicators for measuring success of student outcomes. Some indicators included are that every student is going to develop a personalized learning network in a career of their interest, and that everyone will graduate from high school with post-secondary credit or an industry certification.



SPOTLIGHT:

Pewaukee School District and Waukesha County Technical College

The partnership between Pewaukee and WCTC has created the Pewaukee Insight program, which allows students to earn both dual enrollment credit as well as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) certification by participating in transcribed credit coursework as well as rotations at a local hospital.

Additionally, students participating in Pewaukee School District’s program for 18-21-year-olds with disabilities have the unique opportunity to be fully embedded at WCTC’s campus. By attending classes at WCTC with a Pewaukee disability coordinator on-site, students are able to be in a more affirming adult setting with more ready access to public transportation. Participating students have begun to take college-level classes in cybersecurity, math, English, and digital studies.

K-TECH: Preparing Kentucky's Future Workforce

The second presentation of the day highlighted eastern Kentucky's efforts to build a more sustainable and skilled workforce through partnerships among school districts and community colleges. Jennifer Lindon, president of Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) and Jonathan Jett, superintendent of Perry County Schools, described their partnership and provided an overview of K-Tech, Kentucky's youth apprenticeship program.

The K-Tech program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is a four-year high school curriculum that culminates with students pursuing apprenticeships funded by the grant. In its first year, the program is focused on healthcare, as one of the area's top employers is a hospital system. There currently are five pathways within healthcare that students can choose by earning dual credits in high school and by participating in youth apprenticeships in 11th and 12th grades. K-Tech students must complete a competency checklist before they receive credit for their apprenticeship.

SERVING STUDENTS IN THE HEART OF APPALACHIA

HCTC serves several distressed, poverty-stricken counties, including Perry County, where 75% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Employment prospects have diminished due to the closing of coal mines and other industries, so the region is seeking ways to develop the economy through new industries and by building a skilled labor force. Currently, more than 200 of Perry County's 3,900 students are enrolled, at no cost to them, in dual credit programs through HCTC.



AACC Legislative Update

Following the group presentations, AACC Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Policy Analysis David Baime presented legislative updates on policies of interest for community college presidents and school superintendents. In discussing current FY2020 appropriations negotiations, Baime gave an account of the draft House and Senate budgets. The current House appropriations bill increases education funding overall by \$5 billion, with a \$150 increase to the maximum Pell grant amount. The Senate version of the bill increases the grant limit by \$135, but includes a \$1.3 billion rescission from the grant surplus, which will overall decrease funding by \$700 million in education from FY2019.

Baime characterized the upcoming Higher Education Act reauthorization bill from the House as a dramatic funding increase, which would include new programs such as “Jumpstart to

College,” which would distribute funding to dual enrollment programs solely for Title I schools and would require that federal funding for such programs only be used as a supplement similar state funding. The House bill also includes \$1 billion in proposed funding for remedial and developmental education at community colleges, which would support one year of developmental education per student.

Members of the group proposed demonstrating the value of community colleges by convening both community college presidents and school district superintendents for the AACC’s National Legislative Summit to make members of Congress more aware of the great partnership opportunities that community colleges offer to benefit all students.



Expanding Community College Apprenticeships

Cheryl Olson, AACC's Executive Director of Apprenticeships, presented on The Expanding Community College Apprenticeships (ECCA) initiative. ECCA is led by AACC with funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to increase the number of apprentice programs and services throughout the country. The ECCA project will be conducted over three years and will train 16,000 apprentices.

Group discussion highlighted the desire to expand the program and include more opportunities for youth apprenticeships. Olson emphasized that while the program is currently partnering with 58 individual community colleges and eight community college consortia, the lessons learned will be shared with all, as will future opportunities for technical assistance for other community colleges to expand their apprenticeship programs.



EXPANDING COMMUNITY COLLEGE APPRENTICESHIPS

Four Methods to Reach 16,000

AACC is working with an advisory board of community college leaders to shape information AACC shared with college and industry leaders.

AACC is establishing an member driven network of apprentices, employers, and other stakeholders to make sure information about the programs are accessible and searchable.

AACC is currently working with 58 individual community colleges as well as eight community college consortia that reach a wide swath of employment sectors to move registered apprenticeships forward across industries, including working with youth apprentices ages 16 or older.

AACC is working directly with industry partners, including IBM, Lincoln, and Lockheed Martin, to create more than 4,000 registered apprenticeships for both community colleges and high school youth.



Organizational Updates

In closing, Watler Bumphus and Dan Domenech provided organizational updates from AACC and AASA. Domenech began by highlighting the one-year grant AASA received from Booz Allen Hamilton to support youth apprenticeship programs. With this grant, AASA is identifying existing model programs and planning a series of summits for superintendents from around the country to learn from these models.

Domenech highlighted AASA's Redefining Ready program, a cohort of superintendents from hundreds of school districts which aims to make sure that the education schools are providing meets the needs of students to graduate ready either for postsecondary education or work. Providing better opportunities for students who do not pursue higher education directly after high school is a top priority for AASA.

In an update about AACC's ongoing work, Bumphus highlighted funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support Pathways programs for community colleges that promote student success through program maps that align to a student's academic or career goals.

Bumphus emphasized that AACC is shifting some of its efforts to focus on how community colleges can promote equity and close achievement gaps, including measuring student success outcomes for students to earn gainful employment with family-supporting wages. He also discussed AACC's leadership development efforts, noting that the country loses approximately 200 community college presidents each year, and that there is a real need to develop leaders from other sectors to head community colleges.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

AACC will host its 100th anniversary celebration during its national conference March 28-30, 2020 in National Harbor, Maryland.

AASA will host its national convention February 13-15, 2020 in San Diego, California.

Convening on College and Career Readiness

October 13 - 14, 2019

Sunday, October 13

2:00 PM – 2:10 PM

Welcome

Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO, AACC

Dan Domenech, Executive Director, AASA

2:10 PM – 2:20 PM

Charge for the Day

Facilitator **Kris Kurtenbach**, Founding
Partner, Collaborative Communications

2:20 PM – 3:00 PM

Dialogue with U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE)

Scott Stump, Assistant Secretary for OCTAE (DC)

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Introduction of Participants

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM BREAK

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Expanding and Strengthening Partnerships

Bryan Albrecht, President, Gateway Technical College (WI)

Katie Graf, Assistant Director – College Access
Partnerships, Gateway Technical College (WI)

Jason Tadlock, Superintendent, Elkhorn
Area School District (WI)

Jo Anne Pella, Career & Technical Education
Coordinator, Elkhorn Area School District (WI)

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Wrap-up Day 1

Facilitator **Kris Kurtenbach**

6:00 PM

Group Dinner

Teddy & The Bully Bar

1200 19th Street NW
Washington, DC

Monday, October 14

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Buffet Breakfast

Breakfast Freer Room – Palomar Hotel

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM

Arrive at AACC & Pick-up Visitor Badges

AACC Offices

1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM

Review of Day 1

Facilitator **Kris Kurtenbach**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Working Together to Make our Students Future Ready

Mike Cady, Superintendent,
Pewaukee School District (WI)

Danielle Bosanec, Chief Academic Officer,
Pewaukee School District (WI),

Brad Piazza, Vice President of Learning,
Waukesha County Technical College (WI)

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM BREAK

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

K-TECH – Preparing Kentucky's Future Workforce

Jennifer Lindon, President, Hazard
Community and Technical College (KY)

Jonathan Jett, Superintendent, Perry County Schools (KY)

11:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Legislative Update

David Baime, Senior Vice President Government
Relations and Policy Analysis, AACC

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM BUFFET LUNCH

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Expanding Community College Apprenticeships

Cheryl Olson, Executive Director of Apprenticeships, AACC

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Association Updates

Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO, AACC

Dan Domenech, Executive Director, AASA

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Closing Comments & Parting Charge

Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO, AACC

Dan Domenech, Executive Director, AASA

Facilitator **Kris Kurtenbach**, Founding
Partner, Collaborative Communications

APPENDIX B
**Convening
Participants**

Name	Title	Institution	State
Bryan Albrecht	President	Gateway Technical College	WI
Danielle Bosanec	Chief Academic Officer	Pewaukee School District	WI
Walter Bumphus	President & CEO	American Association of Community Colleges	DC
Mike Cady	Superintendent	Pewaukee School District	WI
Dan Domenech	Executive Director	AASA, The School Superintendents Associations	VA
Joyce Ester	President	Normandale Community College	MN
Clint Ewell	VP, Finance & Administrative Services	Yavapai College	AZ
Joy Gates Black	President	Delaware County Community College	PA
Katie Graff	Assistant Director, College Access Partnerships	Gateway Technical College	WI
Noah Henry		Gateway Technical College	WI
Blaine Hess	Superintendent	Jackson County Schools	WV
Patricia Hsieh	President	Hartnell College	CA
Jonathon Jett	Superintendent	Perry County Schools	KY
Melissa Johnson	Director, Recruitment/ Student Experience	Aiken Technical College	SC
Alex Johnson	President	Cuyahoga Community College	OH
Jennifer Kelsall	Superintendent	Ridgewood Community HS District	IL
Kris Kurtenbach	Facilitator	Collaborative Communications	DC
Chad Knights	Provost, Information & Engineering Technology	Northern Virginia Community College	VA
Kris Kurtenbach	Facilitator/Founding Partner	Collaborative Communications	DC
Julie Leidig	Provost	Northern Virginia Community College – Loudoun Campus	VA
Jennifer Lindon	President	Hazard Community and Technical College	KY
JaNice Marshall	VP, College Pathway Programs & Community Connections	Cuyahoga Community College	OH
Thomas Muzzey	Superintendent	Orchard Farm R5 School District	MO
Gerald Napoles	President	Lone Star College – North Harris	TX

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Participants**

Name	Title	Institution	State
Jeff Nelson	Superintendent	Grafton School District	WI
Cheryl Olson	Executive Director of Apprenticeships	American Association of Community Colleges	DC
JoAnne Pella	CTE Coordinator	Elkhorn Area High School	WI
Brad Piazza	VP of Learning	Waukesha County Technical College	WI
Travis Reeves	Superintendent	Surry County Schools	NC
Tammy Reichelt	Director of Professional Development & Student Success Strategies	American Association of Community Colleges	DC
Jacob Smith		Elkhorn Area High School	WI
Scott Stump	Assistant Secretary for Career & Technical Education	U.S. Department of Education	DC
Jason Tadlock	District Administrator	Elkhorn School District	WI
Andrew Wise	Superintendent	Olympia CUSD 16	IL
Michelle Woodhouse	Provost – Portsmouth Campus	Tidewater Community College	VA
Donna Wright	Director of Schools	Wilson County School District	TN

About the Convening

The Fall 2019 Convening on College and Career Readiness continued an ongoing series of meetings hosted by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and AASA, The School Superintendents Association (AASA). These meetings bring together leaders from across the country to facilitate focused dialogue about fortifying and expanding partnerships and collaboration between the secondary and postsecondary education systems that lead to improved college readiness, access, and success for all students.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS



American Association of Community Colleges

As the voice of the nation's community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) delivers educational and economic opportunity for more than 12 million diverse students in search of the American Dream. Uniquely dedicated to access and success for all students, AACC's member colleges provide an on-ramp to degree attainment, skilled careers and family-supporting wages. Located in Washington, D.C., AACC advocates for these not-for-profit, public-serving institutions to ensure they have the resources and support they need to deliver on the mission of increasing economic mobility for all.

For more information about AACC visit: www.aacc.nche.edu.



AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Founded in 1865, AASA is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders in the United States and throughout the world. AASA's mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children.

For more information about AASA, visit: www.aasa.org

