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December 12, 2022

Eric M. Friedman, Ph.D.
President

To: AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal
1 Dupont Circle NW, Ste 700
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Letter of Support for Christopher Reber, Ph.D.

To: Dr. Angel M. Royal

Please allow this to serve as a letter of support for Dr. Christopher Reber to serve on the AACC Board of Directors as an Institutional Representative. Dr. Reber, a close colleague, continues to do an outstanding job in his role as President of Hudson County Community College (HCCC), where I also served as Executive Vice-President and Provost. I am now the President of Bergen Community College and Dr. Reber continues to mentor and inspire me with his wholehearted passion and dedication to his role as President at one of the country's great, urban community colleges.

In only four short years, President Reber has led a transformation of HCCC. His many accomplishments include leading the College's completion of a comprehensive Self Study for reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, leading the College community in joining *Achieving the Dream* as a strong partnership to fully focus the College on student success initiatives, leading the launch and growth of a full-service HCCC site at a new \$250 million High Tech High School, as well as the development of a new strategic plan focused on diversity, equity, inclusion and student success.

With a career spanning over four decades, Dr. Reber is well respected in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as nationally, as a higher education leader and a champion for innovation in serving students. He has been a keynote speaker at numerous events, and an invited guest on various podcasts and television shows. Additionally, he is the recipient of several awards, most recently the Education Leader 2022 and ACCT Northeast Region Outstanding CEO Award (2022). Serving on numerous boards, committees and community organizations over the years, he has dedicated so much of his time and energy to his career and ground-breaking work on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

I wholeheartedly support Dr. Reber's application for candidacy on the AACC Board of Directors. I can think of no one more qualified and eager to serve than Dr. Chris Reber. I can be reached at (201) 447-7237 for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Friedman".

Eric Friedman, PhD.
President, Bergen Community College

1700 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130-3991
215.751.8000 www.ccp.edu

December 19, 2022

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Letter of Nomination for Dr. Christopher M. Reber

Dear Dr. Royal:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Dr. Christopher M. Reber, for membership to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Reber is a consummate professional with over 42 years of higher education experience. Dr. Reber currently serves as the eighth president of Hudson County Community College (HCCC) located in Jersey City, Union City and Secaucus, New Jersey. As the Chief Executive Officer, he serves over 18,000 credit and noncredit students from diverse, social, cultural, and educational backgrounds. He also leads over 1,000 employees across his three urban campuses.

Dr. Reber led HCCC in joining Achieving the Dream. He also developed a successful President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which promotes principles of excellence in all college activities and outcomes. Dr. Reber and his team at HCCC have received several awards including the *INSIGHT into Diversity's* Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award and the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* "Best Places to Work" Award, to name a few. In fact, Dr. Reber just received the ACCT Outstanding CEO Award for the Northeastern United States in 2022. The hallmark of his presidency has been creating a strong culture of care for students and staff on the HCCC campuses.

I had the pleasure of working with Chris during his tenure at Community College of Beaver County. It was during that time that I witnessed his compassion and dedication to community college students. It is with pleasure and utmost respect that I support Dr. Christopher Reber's candidacy to serve on the Board of Directors of AACC.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at (215) 751-8028.

Respectfully,



Donald Guy Generals, Ed.D.
President



Office of the President
One HACC Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-736-4100
www.hacc.edu

Dec. 12, 2022

Angel Royal, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff
American Association of Community Colleges
One DuPont Circle, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036-1176

Greetings, Dr. Royal.

I enthusiastically support **Christopher M. Reber**, Ph.D., president of Hudson County Community College (HCCC), to serve as a member of the board of directors of the American Association of Community Colleges. Currently, he successfully serves as the eighth president of HCCC since 2018.

Dr. Reber, has over 30 years of senior leadership experience in two- and four-year institutions of higher learning in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. An entrepreneurial and innovative college leader, Dr. Reber is a very engaged and community-oriented president who serves on numerous national, regional and local educational and business-related committees and boards (some in leadership roles). Dr. Reber has also been recognized by many organizations such as the Association for Community College Trustees (ACCT) as the northeast region outstanding CEO (2022), by NJ BIZ as one of the 50 Most Influential New Jersey Educators (2022, 2021) and as a Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society (PTK) Paragon President (2019).

Having served with Dr. Reber in Pennsylvania (PA) as one of the 14 PA community college presidents for four years, I know firsthand how hard he works to create an environment that supports diversity in thought, collaboration and innovation. In fact, he and HCCC have been recognized for their work in diversity, inclusion and belonging within their Latino communities and incarcerated populations, to name two. Finally, one of his greatest attributes as a community college leader is that he is a strong student advocate, especially for minority and marginalized students.

Without hesitation, I strongly recommend Dr. Reber to you as a capable, dedicated, and determined professional who would selflessly represent the membership while contributing thoughtfully to the work of the board of directors as they advance the mission and goals of AACC in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

John J. "Ski" Sygielski
President



Office of the President

November 29, 2022

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
C/O Dr. Angel Royal
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in support of Dr. Christopher Reber, President of Hudson County Community College (HCCC), and a nominee for the 2023 AACC Board of Directors in the Institutional Representative category. Through our mutual membership to AACC and Achieving the Dream (ATD) network, I have known Dr. Reber for over a decade as a peer leader and collaborator advancing student success and the community college mission nationally, especially prioritizing diversity, equity and inclusion, which have become hallmarks of his transformational leadership throughout his 42-year career in higher education.

Currently serving as president at HCCC, Dr. Reber's strategic leadership has advanced partnerships and opportunities that support life-changing academic, personal, and professional experiences that advance student success and align to individual students' passions. At the beginning of his presidency, Dr. Reber led the College's completion of a comprehensive Self Study for reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and planning for the decennial reaccreditation team visit resulting in an eight-year reaccreditation with multiple commendations and no required follow-up reports. More recently, Dr. Reber anchored HCCC's values in the development of HCCC's 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan centering the College's mission to serve diverse communities through inclusive, high-quality educational programs and services. The College's updated vision statement embraces the offering of consistently best-practice, transformative educational and economic opportunities for students and all residents of Hudson County.

Advancing key initiatives in equity and student success, Dr. Reber embraces local, regional and national engagement to better lead at HCCC. Outside of Dr. Reber's role as a transformational leader at HCCC, he is an active member of his community, and currently serves on boards of the Hudson Chamber of Commerce, Hudson Community College Foundation, Journal Square Community Association, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, New Jersey City Leadership Advisory Board, New Jersey Council of Country Colleges, New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Student Success Working Group, and New Jersey Workforce Development Consortium Board of Directors. Nationally Dr. Reber's professional affiliation networks and board service include the AACC Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Achieving the Dream, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), and American Association of State Colleges and Universities, to name a few.



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Office of the President

Since Dr. Reber became HCCC president in 2018, HCCC received the Association of Community College Trustees Northeast Region Equity Award, the INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development's (NISOD) 2022 "Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges" Award, and ModernThink and The Chronicle of Higher Education's "Best Places to Work" Award. Dr. Reber received the ACCT Outstanding CEO Award for the Northeastern United States in 2022. Additionally, HCCC was a finalist for the 2022 AACC Advancing Diversity Award of Excellence.

With over 42 years of leadership experience in higher education, Dr. Reber has a proven track record advancing student success and equity through his roles serving as president of Community College of Beaver County, Executive Dean of Venango College of Clarion University, Associate Provost for Advancement and University Relations, Dean of Student Affairs, and Assistant Professor at The Pennsylvania State University at Erie, Director of Human Resources Development Division and Director of Lifelong Learning at Lakeland Community College, and Coordinator of Student Activities at Firelands College of Bowling Green State University.

Without hesitation, I am honored to fully support Dr. Reber as a nominee for the 2023 AACC Board of Directors. Dr. Reber without a doubt would make an extraordinary addition to the AACC Board of Directors toward achieving AACC's mission of building a nation of learners by advancing America's community colleges through caring advocacy, collaboration, community-building, and critical area expertise to expand critical student success and equity work across our nation's community colleges. Should I be able to answer any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia J. Ballinger".

Marcia J. Ballinger, Ph.D.
President