



December 13, 2023

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Tammy Reichelt
1 Dupont Circle NW, Ste 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear AACC Members,

I am writing to strongly endorse Dr. Willie E. Smith as a candidate for the 2024 American Association of Community College (AACC) Board of Directors.


I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Smith since 2015, and throughout this time, I have witnessed his unwavering commitment and dedication to advancing education within multiple communities across all of Louisiana. Dr. Smith's profound expertise in human capital development, student advising, and workforce training has been instrumental in bringing about positive change and progress in our educational landscape.

Dr. Smith's passion for fostering inclusive environments and advocating for equitable access to education aligns seamlessly with the core values upheld by the AACC. His visionary leadership style, coupled with his ability to effectively collaborate with diverse stakeholders, makes him an exceptional candidate for the Board of Directors. Dr. Smith is dedicated not only to the organization where he is employed but also contributed his leadership experiences in 2022 to Lakeshore's internal leadership institute. This sharing was aligned with AACC's leadership competencies and aimed at supporting aspiring leaders.

Dr. Smith possesses the necessary skills, experience, and a deep understanding of the challenges facing community colleges today. His commitment to ensuring all students have equal opportunities to succeed reflects his profound dedication to the mission and objectives of the AACC. Not to be overlooked, Dr. Smith is a good person with a keen sense of humor.

I am confident Dr. Willie E. Smith will make a valuable contribution to the AACC Board of Directors, leveraging his expertise to drive positive change and further elevate the mission of the organization.

I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Smith's candidacy for the AACC Board of Directors and encourage you to consider his exceptional qualifications and remarkable dedication to the field of education.

Sincerely,

Paul Carlsen, PhD
President
Lakeshore Technical College

Paul Carlsen, Ph.D., President



925 W. Edenborne Parkway • Gonzales • Louisiana • 70737
(225) 743-8500 • FAX (225) 644-8300 • <http://www.rpcc.edu>

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c/o Tammy Reichelt
1 Dupont Circle NW, Ste 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear AACC Members,

I am writing to strongly endorse Dr. Willie E. Smith as a candidate for the 2024 American Association of Community College (AACC) Board of Directors.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Smith for 11 years, and throughout this time, I have witnessed his unwavering commitment and dedication to advancing education within our community. Dr. Smith's profound expertise in workforce development, educational leadership, curriculum development, inclusion, and student success initiatives has been instrumental in bringing about positive change and progress in our educational landscape.

Dr. Smith's passion for fostering inclusive environments and advocating for equitable access to education aligns seamlessly with the core values upheld by the AACC. His visionary leadership style, coupled with his ability to effectively collaborate with diverse stakeholders, makes him an exceptional candidate for the Board of Directors.

Having worked alongside Dr. Smith, who currently serves as Chair of our President's Advisory Council of Chancellors (PACC) on various initiatives, I have consistently been impressed by his strategic thinking, innovative ideas, and tireless efforts to improve the quality of education and support the needs of students and educators alike.

Dr. Smith possesses the necessary skills, experience, and a deep understanding of the challenges facing community colleges today. His commitment to ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to succeed reflects his profound dedication to the mission and objectives of the AACC.

I am confident that Dr. Willie E. Smith will make a valuable contribution to the AACC Board of Directors, leveraging his expertise to drive positive change and further elevate the mission of the organization.

I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Smith's candidacy for the AACC Board of Directors and encourage you to consider his exceptional qualifications and remarkable dedication to the field of education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Q. D. Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Quintin D. Taylor, Chancellor
River Parishes Community College
qtaylor@rpcc.edu

December 13, 2023

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Tammy Reichelt
1 Dupont Circle NW, Ste 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear AACC Members,

I am writing this letter to express my enthusiastic support for Dr. Willie E. Smith as a candidate for the 2024 American Association of Community College (AACC) Board of Directors.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Smith for seven years personally and professionally, and I have witnessed his unwavering commitment and dedication to advancing education within our community. With a deep understanding of academic and student affairs, coupled with a seamless ability to collaborate with business and industry, he emerges as a compelling candidate for this appointment. His proficiency extends to aligning workforce needs with training initiatives, a skill set that positions him uniquely for the challenges and opportunities within community colleges. As such, Dr. Willie Smith has been instrumental in bringing about positive changes and progress in our educational landscape.

Dr. Smith's passion for fostering inclusive environments and advocating for equitable access to education aligns seamlessly with the core values upheld by the AACC. His visionary leadership style, coupled with his ability to effectively collaborate with diverse stakeholders, makes him an exceptional candidate for the Board of Directors.

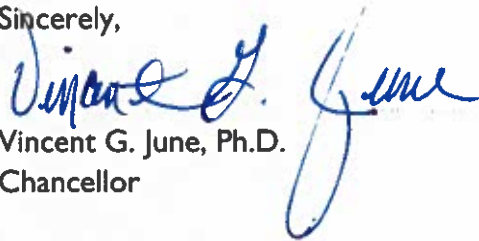
Having worked alongside Dr. Smith, who currently serves as Chair of our President's Advisory Council of Chancellors (PACC) on various initiatives, I am consistently impressed by his strategic thinking, innovative ideas, and tireless efforts to improve the quality of education and support the needs of students and educators alike.

Dr. Smith possesses the necessary skills, experience, and a deep understanding of the challenges facing community colleges today. His commitment to ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to succeed reflects his profound dedication to the mission and objectives of the AACC.

I am confident that Dr. Willie E. Smith will make a valuable contribution to the AACC Board of Directors, leveraging his expertise to drive positive change and further elevate the mission of the organization.

I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Smith's candidacy for the AACC Board of Directors and encourage you to consider his exceptional qualifications and remarkable dedication to the field of education.

Sincerely,



Vincent G. June, Ph.D.
Chancellor



Nunez Community College

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Tammy Reichelt
1 Dupont Circle NW, Ste 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear AACC Members,

I am writing to strongly endorse Dr. Willie E. Smith as a candidate for the 2024 American Association of Community College (AACC) Board of Directors.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Smith for seven years, and throughout this time, I have witnessed his unwavering commitment and dedication to advancing education within our community. Dr. Smith's profound expertise in executive leadership with his team and amongst his Chancellor colleagues across the system has been instrumental in bringing positive change and progress in our educational landscape.

Dr. Smith's passion for fostering inclusive environments and advocating for equitable access to education aligns seamlessly with the core values upheld by the AACC. His visionary leadership style, coupled with his ability to effectively collaborate with diverse stakeholders, makes him an exceptional candidate for the Board of Directors.

Having worked alongside Dr. Smith who currently serves as Chair of our President's Advisory Council of Chancellors (PACC) on various initiatives, I have consistently been impressed by his strategic thinking, innovative ideas, and tireless efforts to improve the quality of education and support the needs of students and educators alike.

Dr. Smith possesses the necessary skills, experience, and a deep understanding of the challenges facing community colleges today. His commitment to ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to succeed reflects his profound dedication to the mission and objectives of the AACC.

I am confident that Dr. Willie E. Smith will make a valuable contribution to the AACC Board of Directors, leveraging his expertise to drive positive change and further elevate the mission of the organization.

I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Smith's candidacy for the AACC Board of Directors and encourage you to consider his exceptional qualifications and remarkable dedication to the field of education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tina Tinney
Chancellor
Nunez Community College

OUR MISSION

Nunez Community College is a student-centered institution that delivers a relevant and innovative curriculum integrating the arts, sciences, and humanities leading to academic credentials and workforce opportunities. Nunez serves a vital role in the community by engaging with partners to support student success and personal growth.

OUR VALUES

Student-Centered
Caring
Teaching and Learning
Innovation
Integrity

3710 Paris Road
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-278-6278
Nunez.edu



1407 Highway 311 | Schriever, LA 70395
Phone: 985.448.7900 | Fax: 985.446.3308 | www.fletcher.edu

December 14, 2023

Dr. Walter G. Bumphus
American Association of Community Colleges
One Dupont Cr., NW, Ste 700
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Bumphus,

I am writing this letter to wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Willie Smith for nomination to the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges. I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Smith both personally and professionally for many years, and I am confident that his extensive experience, dedication, and leadership qualities make him an exceptional candidate for this position with our national association.

Dr. Smith currently serves as the Chancellor at Baton Rouge Community College, where his visionary leadership has significantly contributed to the institution's success. Over the past two decades, he has been unwavering in his commitment to advancing community college education and advocating for the needs of students. Dr. Smith's passion for higher education is evident in his tireless efforts to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment that fosters both academic excellence and personal growth.

One of Dr. Smith's notable contributions is his role as the leader and chair of the President's Advisory Committee for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. In this capacity, he leads the twelve community college chancellors in state-wide discussions and activities that impact every college in our System. He has demonstrated an exceptional ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders, navigate complex challenges, and implement effective strategies to enhance the overall quality of education. His leadership has been instrumental in shaping policies that benefit students, faculty, and the broader community.

Dr. Smith's commitment to excellence extends beyond his administrative roles. He actively engages with students, faculty, and staff to understand their perspectives and address their needs. His genuine concern for the welfare and success of those he serves is a testament to his character and underscores his suitability for a leadership position within the American Association of Community Colleges.

I am confident that Dr. Willie Smith's wealth of experience, innovative thinking, and dedication to the principles of community colleges make him an ideal candidate for the Board. His leadership on a local and state level has proven transformative, and I am certain that he will bring the same level of dedication and vision to the national stage.

I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Willie Smith for nomination to the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges and am confident that his contributions will further elevate the association's mission and impact positively on the community college landscape.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information at Kristine.strickland@fletcher.edu or office 985.448.7922.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristine Strickland', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kristine H. Strickland, Ph.D.
Chancellor