



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
Office of the President
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January 16, 2025

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

Dear Committee,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Dr. Larry Johnson Jr.'s nomination to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Dr. Johnson has had an impressive and distinguished career in higher education, with extensive experience in community colleges. He is a strong advocate for student success, particularly for underrepresented populations, and is committed to providing access to workforce training and credentialing that enable students to enter high-priority careers.

Throughout his career, Dr. Johnson has worked at several institutions of higher learning, serving in various roles, including faculty member, dean, campus president, and college president. In each of these positions, he has been a trailblazer, leading with innovative and transformational strategies. His creativity and dedication to developing programs, activities, and events have allowed him to connect with students in meaningful ways and meet them where they are.

Dr. Johnson possesses the qualities and vision that make him an ideal candidate for the AACC Board of Directors. The organization would greatly benefit from his leadership and insights as we work together to shape the future of community colleges.

If I can provide further assistance, please feel free to contact me via email at qbullock@ccac.edu or by phone at 412-237-4413.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Quintin Bullock", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Quintin Bullock
President



Blue River | Longview | Maple Woods | Online | Penn Valley

January 17, 2025

Hello Ms. Reichelt,

I am writing to provide overwhelming support for Dr. Larry Johnson's candidacy for the AACC Board of Directors. As a previous board member and one who clearly understands the expectations for the Board, I have extreme confidence in his ability to contribute to the direction of the AACC Board.

Dr. Johnson is a strong, seasoned leader exemplified through multiple leadership appointments in his career and now as President of Guttman Community College. His internal constitution and values align with the community college mission—a characteristic that adds to his leadership.

Dr. Johnson is also very committed to national organizations. Dr. Johnson is dedicated to students, as evidenced by his engagement with NASPA. He is also a strong supporter of the Presidents' Round Table. Dr. Johnson has served on several occasions as faculty for the Thomas Lakin Leadership Development Institute, a mentor for Lakin graduates, and as a board member for the organization. His commitment to developing future leaders is a stand-out trait in my opinion.

The AACC membership would be remiss in not selecting Dr. Johnson to the AACC Board. I unequivocally recommend him for the position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Beatty', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. Kimberly Beatty,
Chancellor and CEO, Metropolitan Community College, Kansas City
Past Convener and Dean, Thomas Lakin Leadership Development Institute



January 20, 2025

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

Dear AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services,

I enthusiastically endorse Dr. Larry D. Johnson, Jr. for affiliate Board member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Johnson is a bold, visionary, and equity-minded leader whose nearly 20 years in higher education have profoundly impacted the institutions he has served and their surrounding communities. He will undoubtedly contribute meaningfully to advancing the mission and vision of community colleges nationwide.

As President of Guttman Community College in New York since July 2021, Dr. Johnson has led the institution through significant transformation and advancing its strategic plan, Guttman Forward 2028. This initiative emphasizes student graduation and workforce readiness. Under his leadership, Guttman has launched innovative programs like the Career Innovation HUB, which fosters career development through mentorship and partnerships with local industries. His efforts in enrollment growth, academic excellence, and institutional restructuring have driven a 30% enrollment increase in Fall 2024 and secured over \$3 million in grants.

Dr. Johnson's tenure as the sixth and first Black president of Phoenix College in Arizona further illustrates his visionary leadership. He spearheaded the Presidents' Promise initiative, which re-engaged workforce leaders, enhanced student-centered practices, and improved employee satisfaction. His initiatives, such as the Neighborhood College and the IT Institute, expanded educational access and addressed critical industry needs. These accomplishments earned him widespread respect in the community college sector.

Beyond his institutional leadership, Dr. Johnson has made significant contributions at the national level. He has served on boards and commissions, including the American Association of Community Colleges and the Presidents' Round Table, advocating for policies and practices that promote student success. His strategic collaboration with stakeholders has secured over \$12 million in grants for the institutions he has led.

Dr. Johnson's commitment to equity and inclusion is evident in his leadership philosophy and participation in the Aspen New Presidents' Institute. He has consistently prioritized removing barriers for underrepresented and historically marginalized student groups, demonstrating a steadfast belief that higher education is a vehicle for social mobility.

In conclusion, Dr. Larry D. Johnson, Jr. is an exceptional leader whose dedication to student success, equity, and innovation makes him an ideal candidate for the AACC Board. I am confident he will make a lasting impact on the future of community colleges across the United States.

Sincerely,

Paul Carlsen

Paul Carlsen, Ph.D., President



Office of the President

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
C/O Tammy Reichelt
1 Dupont Circle NW, STE 700
Washington DC 20036

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Larry Johnson to the AACC Board of Directors.

Larry has a strong commitment to the mission of community colleges for student access and success:

- He has around 20 years of higher education experience
- He has been an equity-minded advocate for students to elevate equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging
- At Guttman Community College, he has led transformational changes for enrollment growth to help students graduate and earn family-sustaining wages
- He was selected to participate in the inaugural Aspen New President's Institute to advance equitable outcomes for diverse student populations

At the personal level, I have known Larry for many years as colleagues on the AACC's Presidents Academy Summer Institute. He has been a great collaborator in sharing ways to help develop the leadership characteristics of many community college CEO's across the nation.

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Johnson for a membership on the AACC Board of Directors.

Respectfully,

Dorey Diab, Ph.D.
President/CEO
North Central State College



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

Jan. 19, 2025

Tammy Reichelt
Chief of Staff
American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)
One DuPont Circle, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036-1176

Greetings, Ms. Reichelt!

If you believe the AACC board needs to elect someone who can thoughtfully contribute to the national conversation about the future of community colleges, particularly in relation to equitable student access, workforce development and academic excellence, please join me in supporting the nomination of **DR. LARRY JOHNSON, JR.**, president of Guttman Community College-CUNY (GCC) (NY), for consideration to become an AACC board member.

For over two decades, Dr. Johnson, a bold, creative and experienced leader, has served in a variety of professional roles from being a respected faculty member to various administrative leadership positions. A two-time president, Dr. Johnson served Phoenix College (AZ) with distinction as the first Black president in its history and has served GCC since 2021. Dr. Johnson has consistently demonstrated in each of his positions that he is first and foremost a student zealot ensuring students leave his institutions prepared to earn family-sustaining wages.

A model innovator, Dr. Johnson created and launched several programs throughout his career to engage business leaders with the college's teaching and learning community, to invite community members to take classes from their workplace and to create and promote an IT Institute to meet industry employment demands. In addition, he actively engaged in fund and friend-raising and championed institutional grants and awards that have resulted in over \$12 million – all benefiting those he and his institution was called to serve.

A servant leader, Dr. Johnson has served on national (AACC's Commissions on College Readiness and Small and Rural Colleges), regional (Enterprise Bank and Trust) and local boards such as the Mayor's African American Advisory Committee and Helping Hands for Single Moms, to name a couple. His deep commitment of bridging his institutions into the fabric of the communities he serves is legendary and demonstrated by his participation on many other profit and non-profit organizations.

Having served with Dr. Johnson on several panels and commissions over the years, I have seen firsthand how hard he works to create an environment that supports diversity in thought, partnerships and improvement. His commitment to diversity and equality is also one of his strong suits and because of successes in those areas he was invited to participate in the inaugural Aspen New President's Institute to gain a deeper understanding of the competences required to advance equitable outcomes for diverse student populations. Thanks to his dedication to those efforts, students at Guttman are the beneficiaries.

Therefore, without hesitation, I staunchly recommend Dr. Johnson to you as a skilled, steadfast, and determined educational professional and respected leader who would contribute selflessly to the work of the board of directors to advance our unique mission as an onramp to higher education. If you have any further questions about this nomination, please contact me at 717-731-2337.

His contact information is as follows:

Dr. Larry Johnson, Jr.
President
Stella & Charles Guttman Community College
50 West 40th Street
New York, New York 10018

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John J. 'Ski' Sygielski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Sygielski" being more prominent, and the nickname "'Ski'" in the middle.

John J. "Ski" Sygielski
President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 22, 2025

American Association of Community Colleges
AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services
c/o Tammy Reichelt
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
treichelt@aacc.nche.edu

Dear AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services:

I am honored to support the nomination of Dr. Larry Johnson Jr. to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Johnson's extensive experience in community college leadership would contribute substantially to helping the board maintain the AACC vision of **"Building a Nation of Learners by Advancing America's Community Colleges."** Currently the president of Stella and Charles Guttman Community College—where inclusive and equitable practices thrive on this campus that welcomes 94% of students who are students of color—Dr. Johnson's deep commitment to advancing student success excels. Dr. Johnson is an agent of change. When he served as president of Phoenix College, he led the institution through transformational change, embracing innovations that enhance student outcomes, fostering community partnerships, and advocating for underrepresented populations. His work is driven by a personal and professional commitment to racial and social justice. These values, along with deep experience, would contribute substantially to current inclusion and belonging discussions at community colleges across the nation.

Dr. Johnson's service as a faculty member at Georgia Piedmont Technical College exposed him to the opportunities around student access, workforce development, and academic excellence. He is well-versed in the successful creation of guided paths for students and the construction of diverse, supportive communities. As a first-generation college graduate himself, Dr. Johnson understands personally the challenges faced by many community college students and has designed many structures that empower them to succeed.

In addition to his leadership experience, Dr. Johnson has had the chance to work in several roles that directly align with the AACC's mission to support community colleges across the country. In his role as campus president at St. Louis Community College, he launched a workforce development initiative, the Entrepreneurship Academy, which empowered students to enter the workforce with practical skills and industry certifications. He also pioneered initiatives that have produced several impressive results: improved retention rates for minority male students, reductions in course durations, and increases in student course success rates.

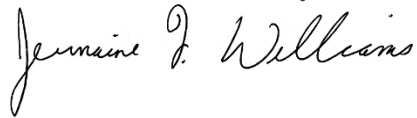
As a leader in community college education, Dr. Johnson's passion for the transformative power of community colleges is evident. He is tireless in advancing policies that support all students,

Tammy Reichelt
January 22, 2025
Page 2

particularly those from historically underserved communities. I believe that Dr. Johnson's expertise would be an extraordinary asset to the AACC Board of Directors. He is deeply committed to ensuring that community colleges continue to serve as beacons of opportunity for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jermaine F. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams
President



RUSSELL LOWERY-HART, Ph.D. • CHANCELLOR

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Building 3000, Suite 4230
Austin, Texas 78752
(512) 223-7598 • austincc.edu

January 24, 2025

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

Dear AACC Colleagues,

I am honored to support Dr. Larry Johnson's candidacy for AACC Board of Directors.

I've known Dr. Johnson for over a decade. I've watched him build his career as a Dean and translate those experiences into effectiveness as a Vice President and then President. In each step of his career, students and service were at the center of Dr. Johnson's work. You see that commitment in his stellar leadership at Guttman Community College. His leadership has helped reimagine the learning experience for his Guttman students.

At Guttman Community College, Dr. Johnson has strengthened student access and success programs. He has impressively secured funding for innovative programs, especially for high demand fields. He's led this transformation with students at the center and a deep commitment to faculty and staff engagement leading to improved retention and graduation rates.

Dr. Johnson is a passionate advocate for community colleges and community college leaders. His advocacy for underrepresented populations is as inspiring as his own personal and professional journey. I believe his experiences and worldview will strengthen our Board of Directors.

I am impressed with Dr. Johnson's commitment to AACC and his willingness to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. He has been a stellar advocate for and leader with the throughout his career and should receive your strong consideration for support.

Much love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Lowery-Hart", written in a cursive style.

Russell Lowery-Hart, Ph.D.
Chancellor



January 23, 2025

AACC Committee on Directors & Membership Services
c/o Ms. Tammy Reichelt
American Association of Community Colleges
One DuPont Circle, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036-1176

TO: AACC Committee on Directors & Membership Services

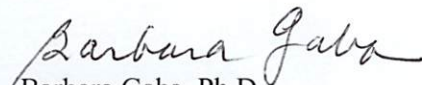
I enthusiastically support **Dr. Larry Johnson** to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Currently, he successfully serves as president of Guttman Community College in New York City.

Dr. Johnson has over 20 years of experience in higher education having worked in a variety of roles that directly align with the Board's mission to support community colleges across the country. He understands the challenges facing community colleges and he has consistently sought innovative ways to enhance student outcomes, foster community partnerships, and advocate for underrepresented populations.

Dr. Johnson's notable achievements at Guttman speak to his ability to implement transformational initiatives. Under his leadership he has worked diligently to secure funding for innovative programs, including over two million dollars in grant funding to support Guttman's cybersecurity and behavioral health workforce programs. In addition, he has enhanced faculty and staff engagement, improved retention, and graduation rates, all while ensuring fiscal responsibility.

Dr. Johnson is a credit to the field of higher education; his vision and dedication, make him a valuable asset to the Board. I have no doubt that Dr. Johnson will be a strong voice on the Board in support of the community college mission. I am pleased to offer my support without reservation.

Sincerely,


Barbara Gaba, Ph.D.
President

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January 23, 2025

Dear AACC Voting Members,

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Larry Johnson for the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). While I have not worked directly with Dr. Johnson, his remarkable career in higher education and dedication to advancing student success stand out as qualities that would make him a valuable asset to the AACC Board of Directors.

With 20 years of leadership experience, including roles as president at multiple institutions, Dr. Johnson has demonstrated a strong commitment to equity, workforce development, and academic excellence. His innovative initiatives, from improving retention for underrepresented students to securing significant funding for workforce programs, reflect his ability to drive meaningful change in the community college sector.

As a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Johnson brings a personal understanding of the challenges our students face. His proven leadership and collaborative approach would make him a strong voice for the transformative power of community colleges on the AACC Board.

I encourage you to consider supporting Dr. Johnson in this election. His expertise and passion for student success would greatly benefit our collective efforts to advance the mission of community colleges nationwide.

Sincerely,



Paula P. Pando, Ed.D.
President