



**DeAnna R. Burt-Nanna, Ph.D.**  
**President**

(she/her/hers)

**MCC VALUES:**

*COMMUNITY.*

*INCLUSIVENESS.*

*INTEGRITY.*

*EXCELLENCE.*

*EMPOWERMENT.*

*STEWARDSHIP.*

December 18, 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,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for Dr. Avis Proctor for the AACC Board of Directors. She is a future-focused leader who is recognized for her leadership and innovation at Harper College, for the state of Illinois and for our sector. Dr. Proctor has served in various positions in two large community college systems in Florida and Illinois for 25 years, currently leads the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents as Council Chair and was selected to serve on Governor Pritzker's Higher Education Futures Table (HEFT).

Dr. Proctor is committed to developing transformational opportunities for her college community with generational impact, and she strongly believes in AACC's power to advance community colleges and our nation's global competitiveness. Her AACC service on our Board, Commissions, Committees and her presentations at many annual AACC conferences demonstrates her dedication to building resilience for colleges and for sharing strategies to bolster our nation's community colleges and the 10 million students we serve. For these reasons and many more, I believe she is ready to serve on the AACC Board of Directors with excellence.

Sincerely,

DeAnna R. Burt-Nanna, Ph.D

# JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE

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700 Logan College Drive | Carterville, Illinois, 62918-2500 | 618.985.2828

December 21, 2025

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

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to nominate Dr. Avis Proctor, President of William Rainey Harper College, for appointment to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). As a fellow community college leader in Illinois, I have had the privilege of witnessing Dr. Proctor's exceptional contributions to our field. I am confident she embodies the qualities of an ideal board member as outlined by AACC—commitment to governance, ethical conduct, strategic vision, and active engagement in advancing the mission of community colleges nationwide.

Dr. Proctor has served as President of Harper College since July 2019, demonstrating more than six years of steadfast leadership. Her tenure has been marked by transformative achievements, including leading Harper to semifinalist status in the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence in both 2023 (Top 25) and 2025 (Top 20), underscoring her focus on student success, equity, and institutional effectiveness. She has fostered a data-driven culture, implementing key performance indicators to boost retention and completion rates and aligning the curriculum with high-demand workforce needs through innovative guided pathways and partnerships.

In alignment with AACC's emphasis on governance and policy, Dr. Proctor has demonstrated a proactive approach to strategic leadership. As Chair of the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents (ICCCP) since 2025, and previously as Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer, she has advocated for statewide initiatives, including enrollment growth, workforce development, and the IMWE welding certificate program. Her participation in AACC's Future Presidents Institute in 2016, along with her current service on the AACC Board (2022-2025) and Executive Committee (2024-2025), underscores her deep engagement with the association. She has attended and presented at numerous AACC conferences, contributing to discussions on student success models, economic mobility, and leadership development—demonstrating her commitment to collective decision-making and to representing the broader membership.

Dr. Proctor's ethical and professional conduct is exemplary. She understands the board's role in setting policy while respecting the distinction between governance and operations. Her involvement in professional development, including the Aspen Presidential Fellowship (2018-2019 and 2024-2025), and her ability to meet the time and financial commitments of board service make her an outstanding candidate. Furthermore, her state-level engagement and national presentations highlight her outward vision, future orientation, and dedication to diverse viewpoints, all core to AACC's governance principles.

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Dr. Proctor's leadership has not only elevated Harper College but also strengthened the community college sector through her focus on equity, innovation, and partnerships. I strongly endorse her nomination and believe she will continue advancing AACC's vision on behalf of all member institutions. Please contact me at [kirkoverstreet@jalc.edu](mailto:kirkoverstreet@jalc.edu) or 618-985-8408 for any additional information.

Sincerely,

*Kirk C. Overstreet, Jr. Ph.D.*

Dr. Kirk Overstreet,  
President, John A. Logan College  
John A. Logan College  
700 Logan College Drive  
Carterville, IL 62918



## Office of the President

December 23, 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 am happy to submit this letter of support for Dr. Avis Proctor, President of Harper College, to serve on the AACC Board of Directors. Dr. Proctor has served in multiple roles from faculty to senior leadership in two community college systems for more than 25 years. She strongly advocates for our country's community colleges and the critical role we play in student success and the economic development of our communities and our nation. I was fortunate to work with her on AACC's Presidents' Academy Executive Committee to plan much-needed professional development curriculum for the Presidents' Academy Summer Institute (PASI) for community college CEOs across the nation. This timely institute was designed to better equip presidents on the pressing challenges and rapid change they face on a regular basis. Her collaborative style and forward-thinking approach contributed to the institute's success. Her dedication to our sector is evident in her AACC Board service and her many contributions at AACC annual and WDI conferences, commissions and committees.

Dr. Proctor provides excellent leadership at Harper College as evidenced by student success outcomes and the state and national recognition that have occurred under her leadership. On student success, Harper College has attained its highest graduation rate in institutional history at 47.6%, a more than 40% growth since her tenure began in 2019. Further, Harper College was recertified as an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction, received two semifinalist designations (Top 25 then Top 20 in the nation) for the \$1M Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, and earned multiple Higher Education Excellence and Distinction Awards and more. Dr. Proctor also provides her expertise from the local to global levels across multiple organizations to include serving on local boards as well in her role as the current Chair for the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents. She also invests in the development of future leaders via her commitment to professional development at her college and through several organizations which include the Presidents' Roundtable, the American Association for Women in Community Colleges, national webinars on Artificial Intelligence and NSF STEM grants, Community Colleges for International Development and more.

Having worked with Dr. Proctor on PASI and the AACC board, and for the above reasons and more, I strongly support Dr. Proctor's candidacy to serve on the AACC Board of Directors as we collectively work to fortify the association's mission and support institutional resiliency for our nation's community colleges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorey Diab".

Dorey Diab, Ph. D.

Dr. Dorey Diab, President

2441 Kenwood Circle | Mansfield, OH 44906 | ddiab@ncstatecollege.edu | 419.755.4811 | 888.755.4899 | 419.755.4780 Fax | [www.ncstatecollege.edu](http://www.ncstatecollege.edu)



December 29, 2025

Dr. DeRionne Pollard  
CEO and President  
American Association of Community Colleges  
1 Dupont Circle  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Pollard,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recognize and endorse Dr. Avis Proctor, President of Harper Rainey College, to serve as a member of the AACC Board of Directors. Dr. Proctor's prior service as an AACC Board Member and one committed to those serving in higher education continues to place her among those exemplary leaders in our field.

I have served with Dr. Proctor in her AACC Board roles on the Public Policy Committee. She has worked closely with David Baime and his colleagues to advocate studied and evidence-based practices that hopefully become law. She has also communicated the progress of AACC and related policy positions to those of us in the field.

I have also seen her commitment to expanding the most advanced workforce training programs serving her community and students. As a national leader in quantum mechanics technician programs, I have been proud to share our experts and curriculum based on the guidance from the U.S. national labs and leading entrepreneurs with her and her team – and she has shared the same expertise and partnership opportunities with CNM. She's truly a generous colleague, willing to share opportunities with others throughout the country – and some who may be seen as competitors.

I hope she has the opportunity to, once again, serve on the Board.

Sincerely,

Tracy Hartzler/E-signature  
President



December 29, 2025

Dear Members of the AACC Nominating Committee,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Dr. Avis Proctor, President of Harper College, for service as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Proctor is an exceptional leader whose steady commitment to student success, equity, workforce alignment, and institutional excellence reflects the very best of the community college mission.

In her role at Harper College, Dr. Proctor has demonstrated the ability to lead with clarity, integrity, and purpose, bringing people together around shared goals and delivering results that strengthen access, completion, and career outcomes for learners. She is widely respected for her strategic approach to improving student pathways, fostering strong regional partnerships, and ensuring programs remain responsive to labor market needs. Just as importantly, she leads with a genuine focus on inclusion and opportunity, consistently centering students and communities in decision-making.

Dr. Proctor's impact extends beyond her campus. She is a thoughtful collaborator and a persuasive advocate for community colleges at the state and national levels. Her ability to connect policy, practice, and outcomes makes her an outstanding candidate to help guide AACC's priorities, particularly as institutions navigate shifting workforce demands, changing demographics, and the urgent need to expand credential attainment and economic mobility.

As a Board member, Dr. Proctor would bring pragmatic insight, strong governance instincts, and a solutions-oriented mindset. She understands the complexity of leading institutions that serve diverse learners, and she brings the kind of credibility, experience, and vision that will support AACC's work on behalf of colleges nationwide.

I recommend Dr. Proctor without reservation. Thank you for your consideration of her candidacy, and for your continued leadership in advancing the community college sector.

Warm regards,

Janet N. Spriggs, Ed.D.  
President, Forsyth Technical Community College