

# FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Community College Colleagues:

The 2012 Community College National Legislative Summit (NLS) comes on the heels of tight budgetary times for higher education funding at the federal level and in communities across the nation. As community colleges have faced difficult budget cuts, they have strived to meet the demands of record-high numbers of students seeking to further their education and workers looking for retraining. The upcoming 2012 national elections give community colleges a great opportunity to continue to make their case for federal support.

ACCT and AACC strongly encourage you to attend the 2012 NLS this February 13-16 to help advance the community college federal legislative agenda. Occurring Monday through Thursday, the dates of the 2012 NLS are better aligned with the congressional schedule than in previous years. The NLS will provide you the opportunity to highlight the importance of community colleges to our nation's economic strength with your members of Congress and also offer tools to leverage additional support at the state and local levels.

It is crucial that trustees, presidents, students, and other advocates and leaders have face-to-face meetings with your Representatives and Senators in Washington. We are pleased to feature an extended luncheon moderated by former Fox News Chief White House Correspondent Major Garrett with renowned political analysts Charlie Cook and Stuart Rothenberg. Cook and Rothenberg will provide their analysis of the presidential and congressional campaigns of 2012 and national issues affecting education. And, as always, the NLS will feature informative sessions on current topics and an overview of the 2012 community college legislative priorities. We can be sure that issues related to the federal budget will be front and center.

With your attendance at the 2012 NLS, community colleges can influence the national political agenda and make continued strides in communicating the quality and effectiveness of the work done at our institutions. Mark your calendar today, and plan to attend the 2012 Community College National Legislative Summit. Your voice and your presence are critical to ensuring the ongoing federal prioritization of community colleges.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Sercer, Sr.  
Trustee, Midlands Technical College, SC  
2010-2011 ACCT Chair

Myrtle E. B. Dorsey  
Chancellor, St. Louis Community College, MO  
2011-2012 AACC Board Chair