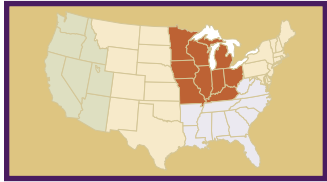


Around the Regions



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**CENTRAL
REGION**
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Both headcount and full-time equivalency spring enrollments at Illinois community colleges have reached all-time record levels. “Not only do we have record numbers of students, but they are taking record numbers of classes,” says **Illinois** Community College Board chair Guy Alongi. Unfortunately, state funding has not kept pace — Gov. Patrick Quinn’s FY11 budget proposal includes no increase for community colleges, leaving state funding at the same level as the 2005-06 school year.

Students at Ivy Tech Community College in **Indiana**, along with their peers at Bucks County Community College in Pennsylvania and Tarrant County College in Texas, participated in a videoconference with U.S. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan on April 1, Community College Poetry Day. The day is part of the “Poetry for the Mind’s Joy” project developed by Ryan in collaboration with the Community College Humanities Association.

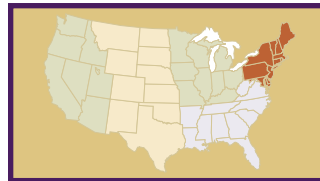
The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship has awarded the North **Iowa** Area Community

College John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) its highest national honor, the Innovation Award. The award recognizes entrepreneurship centers’ positive impacts on communities. The JPEC was recognized for its successful deployment of innovation and entrepreneurship practices and creation of new jobs, as well as its complementary Master Business Innovator Certification sessions to accelerate innovation.

Following earlier discussions about creating two middle colleges to serve the Detroit K-12 school district, Wayne County Community College District in **Michigan** is evaluating a partnership proposal that would create several K-14 or K-20 campuses in the K-12 district.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has provided a one-time \$12 million workforce development investment to the state’s 12 community colleges to develop new and expanded programs serving the middle-skill occupations expected to drive economic recovery. For example, the \$1.1 million granted to Ozarks Technical Community College will be used to purchase new equipment and develop curricula for programs, including the development of a new associate-degree program in hearing-aid technology and the purchase of a \$250,000 driving simulator that will allow the school to expand its commercial truck-driving program. The “Training for Tomorrow” program was funded through the Second Supplemental Disaster Recovery Community

Development Block Grant, a federal program to assist with economic recovery efforts.



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**NORTHEAST
REGION**
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Four community colleges in **Maine** received \$1.3 million in federal stimulus grants to support renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. The grants, which were awarded through a Maine Public Utilities Commission program called Efficiency Maine, will go to Northern Maine Community College, Eastern Maine Community College, Kennebec Community College, and Southern Maine Community College.

Massachusetts higher education officials have proposed a new accountability system called the Vision Project, which would require the state’s 15 community colleges and all other public colleges and universities to report data, including measures of the types of degrees awarded and information about how different groups of students perform on professional licensure tests.

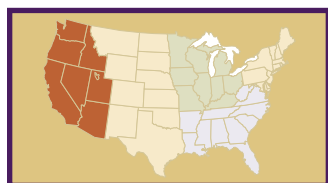
New Jersey’s 19 community colleges have formed a special task force to strengthen their developmental education

programs. At least one representative from each community college is serving on the task force, designed to enhance students’ access to success. Task force members will consult with Achieving the Dream states, explore grant opportunities for funding, and promote statewide “best practices” with other developmental education faculty and staff throughout the state.

The **New Jersey** Business & Industry Association presented its 2009 Leonard C. Johnson Award to the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development and the state’s 19 community colleges. Created in 2004 by New Jersey’s community colleges, the consortium was recognized for partnering with NJBIA and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development to create the NJBIA Basic Skills Workforce Training Program, which provides training in computers, communications, math, and English as a second language to small businesses throughout the state. “New Jersey’s 19 community colleges are very grateful for this award,” said NJCCC Chairman Ronald Winthers. “But more importantly, we are committed to working with the NJBIA, the business community, and our state’s leaders to move New Jersey forward in these challenging economic times.”

To help support and increase the numbers of male students — who make up only 38 percent

of its student population — Prince George's Community College in **Maryland** launched the Diverse Male Student Academy, an extracurricular program offering workshops on personal goals, education, time management, career readiness, and networking. "We are looking at the success rates of men [and] determining that coming to college and being successful in college can impact their careers and quality of life after college," President Charlene Dukes told a local newspaper.



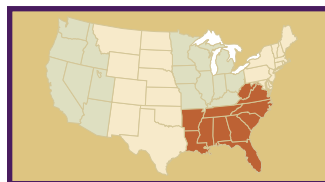
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**PACIFIC
 REGION**
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Cochise College, located in southeast **Arizona**, celebrated the opening of new and renovated facilities with open house events at its Sierra Vista and Douglas campuses early this semester. Guests toured new student services areas, classroom and lab space, science and technical education facilities, and residence halls. A new learning center also is under construction at the college's Willcox location. The projects enhance or replace some facilities that dated to the college's opening in 1964.

Victor Valley College in **California** has partnered with green-energy technology

firm SolFocus to build a one-megawatt solar farm in Victorville. The six-acre project is projected to supply about 30 percent of the community college's energy needs.

Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) in Gresham, **Oregon**, has partnered with Gatlin Education Services to offer several green online career-training programs targeted at students looking to enter or retool their careers in the sustainable-energy industry. The programs include certification in building analyst, green supply-chain professional, indoor air quality manager, indoor environmentalist, and senior certified sustainability professional programs, as well as courses in natural gas plant operations, comprehensive building assessments, green building principles, and wind energy apprenticeships.



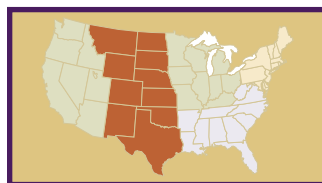
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**SOUTHERN
 REGION**
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Pitt Community College in Winterville, **North Carolina**, and Tidewater Community College in Norfolk, Virginia, are two of five community colleges nationwide that received \$144 million in federal stimulus money from the Health and Human Services administration

to train and recruit 50,000 new health IT professionals.

Gov. Steve Beshear of **Kentucky** signed House Bill 160, which will create "a more clearly defined path to a bachelor's degree for KCTCS students who plan to transfer to a four-year university in our state," according to Kentucky Community and Technical College System President Michael B. McCall. The bill will take effect in the 2012-13 academic year.

Virginia community colleges are anticipating a 13 percent reduction in state support in 2012 once \$198 million in federal stimulus funds made available to the state's colleges and universities during the 2011 fiscal year dries out.



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**WESTERN
 REGION**
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Enrollment in **Colorado** community colleges is up 19 percent from last spring, with more than 85,500 students enrolled in at least one class. As a result of the enrollment surge, CCCOnline, the statewide network of online community college course offerings, has had to cap enrollment in more than 80 courses in subjects ranging

from biology and chemistry to literature and psychology.

Rose State College in **Oklahoma** was awarded a \$125,000 National Science Foundation grant to upgrade its cybersecurity program with mobile device access and "virtual computers" — a system that creates images of computers on different servers and allows students to work on them from different locations. The virtualization grant is part of a \$2.7 million three-year Advanced Technological Education grant awarded by the NSF to help reverse the outsourcing and offshoring of high-tech jobs. Rose State College is the only community college in the country that offers all six levels of federal cybersecurity certification.

San Jacinto College in Pasadena, **Texas**, has partnered with Brazosport College and Lee College as part of a \$4.7 million grant to train workers in the petrochemical and energy industries. The grant, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will allow the three schools to provide comprehensive petrochemical training programs for low-income, unemployed incumbent workers, and Hispanic women. San Jacinto College also will receive more than \$2 million to provide high-tech training to 1,646 participants in high-demand occupations such as system and refinery operators and industrial, instrumentation, and automation technology.

Around the Regions provides an opportunity to share what's happening in the states and around the regions. This section focuses on state legislative and budgetary issues, economic development, and finance. Please e-mail items from press releases or newsletters to ACCT at dconner@acct.org. Fax submissions to 202-223-1297.