

Spring 2010

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The *TRUSTEE QUARTERLY* (ISSN 0271-9746) is published four times per year as a membership service of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). ACCT is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards of public and private community, technical, and junior colleges. Membership is also open to state coordinating boards, advisory boards, and state associations. The purpose of ACCT is to foster greater understanding of and appreciation for community college boards; support boards in their efforts to develop public policies focusing on meeting community needs; help build board governance leadership and advocacy capacity through in-service education and training programs; and support boards through specialized services and programs.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ACCT.

Non-members may subscribe to the *TRUSTEE QUARTERLY* for \$60.00 a year and postage outside USA. Third-class postage paid at Washington, DC.



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From the President & CEO

Maintaining Momentum



WE CONTINUE TO ENJOY UNPRECEDENTED attention from the Obama Administration, the media, and many other sectors. Because of the commitment and dedication of member trustees, ACCT has been able to leverage additional federal resources to support students and institutions during a tumultuous period of burgeoning enrollment and state and local funding cuts.

Increased attention has brought increased scrutiny and the need to demonstrate that community colleges can get the job done effectively and efficiently. ACCT's leadership continues to move forward on the Voluntary Framework for Accountability initiative, which, for the first time, will provide all of our colleges with the benchmarks they need to showcase their successes across all of

their diverse missions. The growing national movement focusing on student success and completion prompted the ACCT Board to recommit the association to assisting member boards in strengthening institutional commitment to success, and play its part in moving the nation back to the top in the number of Americans with a college degree.

Early this year, Mother Nature challenged ACCT's leadership. For the first time in history, the 2010 National Legislative Summit had to be postponed due to the two historic snowstorms that shut down Washington, D.C., for a full week. Despite this enormous hurdle, we successfully rescheduled the event for March, and I am proud to state that almost 400 trustees and administrators visited members of Congress and the Administration to advocate on behalf of community colleges. The timing of NLS, as Congress and the White House negotiated the reconciliation bill, was crucial, and I am happy to say that our advocacy efforts were crucial to the inclusion of SAFRA and community college funds. Turn to page 14 for full coverage of the NLS and page 8 for ACCT Public Policy Director Jee Hang Lee's column, which details the year in advocacy.

We continue to address the current needs of our members in this issue of *Trustee Quarterly*, from excellent guidance on averting campus violence from ACCT Legal Counsel Ira Michael Shepard to a profile of North Iowa Area Community College's creative new advocacy tools and an explanation of the role of facilities in recruiting and retaining students by Darrell Shumway of Parsons, an ACCT Corporate Council member. Another thoughtful case study from ACCT Vice President Narcisa Polonio rounds out the issue.

On page 20, we survey some of the extraordinary challenges facing some colleges due to state budget shortfalls. We are carefully creating a program for the 2010 ACCT Leadership Congress in Toronto, Canada, that will maintain the highest level of educational and networking opportunities for the trustees, presidents, and others who attend, while at the same time reducing expenses in observance of the current state of the economy. One program change of note is that we have moved the opening general session from a Thursday morning breakfast to a Wednesday evening auditorium-style session, which will reduce meal expenses. The U.S.-to-Canadian currency conversion also works in our favor, keeping costs lower than average. We anticipate another strong Congress, and I look forward to working with you there to maintain the extraordinary momentum we have established together over the past year.

Thank you for your continuing support and leadership!

J. NOAH BROWN
ACCT PRESIDENT AND CEO