

# Presidential Searches

*The Board Leadership Services staff and consultants of the Association of Community College Trustees are pleased to have assisted in searches for the following community college chief executive officers.*



## **College of the Marshall Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands**

**Kenneth Woodbury, Ed.D.**  
*President*

*Former Community Development Specialist  
Piscataquis County Economic  
Development Council, Maine*

“We are delighted to find in Kenneth Woodbury an outstanding individual to take the college forward into its next phase.”

— *Maria Fowler, Board Chair*



## **Cumberland County College, N.J.**

**Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.**  
*President*

*Former Vice President of Academic Affairs  
and Enrollment Services  
Cumberland County College, N.J.*

“[Dr. Isekenegbe] has had support from within the college and outside the college, and I think he’s going to do an outstanding job.”

— *Charles Thomas, Board Chair*



## **Essex County College, N.J.**

**Edythe M. Abdullah, J.D.**  
*President*

*Former President  
Downtown Campus, Florida State College  
Jacksonville, Fla.*

“Personally, and on behalf of the Essex County College Trustees, I want to thank ACCT for their leadership in our presidential search. ACCT did an excellent job and enabled us to have a transparent and inclusive search, which resulted in us selecting a wonderful new president.”

— *Rev. Reginald T. Jackson, Board Chair*



## **Milwaukee Area Technical College, Wisc.**

**Michael L. Burke, Ph.D.**  
*President*

*Former President  
San Jose City College, Calif.*



## **Northern New Mexico College, N.M.**

**Nancy “Rusty” Barceló, Ph.D.**  
*President*

*Former Vice Provost and Vice President for  
Equity and Diversity  
University of Minnesota in  
Minneapolis, Minn.*

“The search process jointly developed and implemented with our Regents of Northern New Mexico College and ACCT resulted in the selection of Dr. Nancy ‘Rusty’ Barceló as our new president. Regents, faculty, staff, and our community are greatly appreciative of the professional service ACCT provided that led to this decision. Dr. Barceló possesses the experience, educational background, and drive that will lead ‘Northern’ to even greater successes.” — *Michael Branch, President, Board of Regents*



## **North Hennepin Community College, Minn.**

**John O’Brien, Ph.D.**  
*President*

*Former Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Century College, Minn.*

“We work very hard to grow strong leaders within the system, as we did with John O’Brien. I am pleased that he was able to rise to the top after a thorough process that sought out the best talent. He is well suited to this college.”

— *James H. McCormick, Chancellor, MNSCU*

“John O’Brien already has demonstrated leadership and vision in the positions he has held in this system. This is a logical step for the board, and I believe the system will benefit greatly.”

— *Ruth Grendabl, Board Vice Chair; Human Resources  
Committee Chair*



## **Orange Coast Community College, Coast Community College District, Calif.**

**Dennis Harkins, Ph.D.**  
*Campus President*

*Former Director of Government Relations  
Georgia Perimeter College, Ga.*

“Orange Coast College has a long, proud history of fine academics and quality programs. Dr. Harkins will be a valued addition to our district leadership team as we face new

challenges and opportunities at Orange Coast College.”  
— *Jerry Patterson, Board President*

“I am confident that Dennis will bring a wealth of nationally recognized leadership skills and experience to Orange Coast College.”  
— *Dr. Ding-Jo Currie, District Chancellor*



**St. Louis Community College – Forest Park, Mo.**

**Dr. Cynthia Hess, Ed.D.**  
*Campus President*

*Former Executive Vice President/Chief Academic Officer*  
Craven Community College, N.C.

“Dr. Hess’s credentials and commitment to community college education make her a strong candidate to provide leadership as we move forward with our agenda for the Forest Park campus.”  
— *Joann Ordinachev, Chair, STLCC Board of Trustees*

“Dr. Hess’s extensive experience as both an administrator and teacher at the community college level, and her passion for teaching and learning, convinced me that she is the best candidate to lead the Forest Park campus.”  
— *Dr. Zelema Harris, STLCC Chancellor*

## BOARD RETREATS & PRESIDENTIAL EVALUATIONS

*ACCT would like to thank the following colleges, which have taken advantage of our Retreat and/or Board and President Evaluation Services.*

- Crowder College, Mo.
- Houston Community College System, Texas
- Maricopa County Community College District, Ariz.
- Palm Beach Community College, Fla.
- Redwoods Community College District, Calif.
- St. Louis Community College District, Mo.
- Warren County Community College, N.J.

Should you need information, assistance, or just have a question about presidential searches, services for trustees, or even general questions on board operations and procedures, contact ACCT Vice President of Research, Education & Board Leadership Services, Dr. Narcisa Polonio, at **202.775.4670** (office) or **202.276.1983** (mobile), or e-mail [narcisa\\_polonio@acct.org](mailto:narcisa_polonio@acct.org).

# Looking for a New President or Chancellor?



ACCT Board Leadership Services brings over 30 years of history and experience to every executive search. We have assisted more than 300 colleges and governing boards in successfully fulfilling the responsibility of selecting a new president or chancellor.

## OUR STRENGTHS

- We understand the needs of community colleges.
- We find and cultivate high-caliber talent.
- We build a unique pool of candidates for each search to “fit” the college.
- We have extensive contacts with women and minorities poised to advance.
- We have the advantage of the ACCT membership as a source of contacts.

ACCT Board Leadership Services will guide you during every step of the selection process.