

# LET THE LAW WORK FOR YOU

Timing is everything when it comes to advocacy, but not everyone has time to pay attention to pending legislation day in and day out.

ACCT's Latest Action in Washington (LAW) Alerts do the work for you.

Since 2008, over 500 new people have signed up to receive ACCT's LAW Alert e-mails — brief summaries of legislative actions e-mailed to subscribers as legislation happens, giving community college trustees, presidents, and other leaders and advocates time to contact their representatives and exert influence before it's too late.

Please encourage your fellow trustees, presidents, and colleagues to stay up to date about legislation that affects their community colleges by joining the LAW E-Alert network. To join, simply e-mail [publicpolicy@acct.org](mailto:publicpolicy@acct.org) with "LAW Alert" in the subject of the e-mail.

For more information about ACCT's advocacy services, visit [www.acct.org/advocacy](http://www.acct.org/advocacy).

# NEWS ■ ■ ■

## ACCT Advocacy Pays Off With Historic Legislation



President Obama and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden speak at Northern Virginia Community College

On Tuesday, March 30, President Barack Obama signed the historic Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 at Northern Virginia Community College's (NOVA) Alexandria campus in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden, an associate professor of English at NOVA, introduced the president.

"The president has set an ambitious goal for higher education in this country. By 2020, we want America once again to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world," Dr. Biden said.

"The signing of this act means that the voices of community college advocates have been heard loud and clear," said ACCT Chair Thomas M. Bennett, who joined many other community college trustees and leaders in attendance at the signing.

To further illustrate Bennett's point, the president announced that he has asked Dr. Biden to host a summit on community colleges at the White House this fall. ACCT will keep you updated as further details develop.

ACCT President and CEO J. Noah Brown and Director of Public Policy Jee Hang Lee have worked closely with the Obama Administration and the Department of Education to secure support for community colleges since President Obama's election in November 2008. The ACCT Board of Directors and staff thank you for your strong advocacy efforts, and we look forward to maintaining the momentum of this unprecedented recognition and support at the federal level.



## S.C. Association Selected to Receive 2010 ACCT Trust Fund Board Grant

Congratulations to the South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC), which the ACCT Trust Fund Board selected as the recipient of the 2010 ACCT Trust Fund Board Grant. The SCATCC will be awarded \$10,000 to support a new web-based trustee-training project, which will be developed and implemented over a 24-month period. The purpose of the project is to focus on facets of good governance, which will produce more informed trustees who will have the skills to make more efficient and effective board decisions.

"The ACCT grant award to the South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners will provide critical training for trustees who serve on the colleges' Boards of Directors," said SCATCC Board Chairman, Baird Mallory, a trustee of Trident Technical College in Charleston, S.C. "Online learning has the advantage of educating the trustees conveniently, uniformly, and efficiently on their responsibilities and issues affecting community colleges, especially in these times of budget cuts for travel and conference attendance," he said. "The modules implemented by the South Carolina association can be used by all state associations of community colleges. This online training will increase access and participation to improve the board members' skill in their fiduciary duties. Emergent issues facing community colleges will be addressed as enrollment in community and technical colleges increase nationwide to provide necessary job skills for the workforce."

SCATCC Executive Coordinator Jen Phelps submitted the grant proposal and will administer the grant.

# Six National Community College Leaders Call for All U.S. Colleges to Meet Challenge



Signers of the Democracy's Challenge Call to Action (L to R): League for Innovation in the Community College President and CEO Gerardo de los Santos, NISOD Director Evelyn Waiwaiole, AACC President and CEO George R. Boggs, Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director Rod A. Risley, CCCSE Director Kay M. McClenney, and ACCT President and CEO J. Noah Brown

On April 20, 2010, ACCT joined in an unprecedented and unified action, signing a statement of commitment to increase student completion rates by 50 percent over the next decade, as one of the six national organizations representing America's 1,200 community colleges, their governing boards, their faculty, and their 11.8 million students.

"The Democracy's Challenge Call to Action is an extraordinary step forward for the nation's community colleges," said ACCT Chair Thomas M. Bennett, a trustee at Parkland College, Ill.

"This Call to Action represents the culmination of the community college movement's renewed commitment to accountability, student success, and completion," said ACCT President and CEO J. Noah Brown, who signed the statement at a special ceremony held during the closing general session of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) 90th Annual Convention in Seattle.

The Call to Action was also signed by the chief executive officers of the American Association of Community Colleges, The Center for Community College Student Engagement, The League for Innovation in the Community College, National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. These organizations joined forces to represent the voices of community and technical college governing boards, presidents, administrators, faculty members, and students.

The Call to Action expressly commits the partner organizations to student success-oriented actions, including:

- Changing institutional culture from emphasis on access only to emphasis on access and success;
- Engaging in courageous conversations regarding diversity, equity, and excellence reflecting student success and institutional performance;
- Increasing success rates for all students and eliminating the attainment gaps that separate student groups on the basis of race, ethnicity, and family income;
- Acting on facts to make positive changes in the interest of student success and college completion;
- Promoting faculty and staff development focused on evidence-based educational practice;
- Providing development opportunities for college CEOs, trustees, and future college leaders to build partnership for student success.

To view the Democracy's Challenge Call to Action, go to <http://www.acct.org/CallAction.pdf>.



## ACCT Launches New Online Diversity Resource Center

As part of its ongoing commitment to diversity and institutional equity, ACCT has developed a new online Diversity Resource Center. The center is a library of diversity-related materials that ACCT members have generously allowed us to share with you.

Available resources include diversity plans, program overviews, best practices, statements, and other materials that we hope will give you ideas about new ways in which to expand diversity, inclusiveness, and equity at your community college.

If you have materials that you would like us to share on these pages, please e-mail [acctinfo@acct.org](mailto:acctinfo@acct.org) and let us know. And don't forget to nominate equity programs at your college for the 2010 ACCT Equity Awards program! More information and an online submission form are available at <http://www.acct.org/about/regionalannual/>.

## 2010 Toronto Congress

ACCT has made great efforts to keep costs for the 2010 ACCT Congress, to be held Oct. 20-23 in Toronto, as low as possible without sacrificing quality. Hotel room rates are lower than in several years, due in part to the favorable currency conversion rate. Costs have been further reduced by judiciously negotiating meal costs and moving the opening general session from Thursday morning to Wednesday evening. By making these and other simple changes, ACCT has ensured that you get the greatest value for your participation in the 2010 ACCT Congress, while getting as much, if not more, out of the experience as always.



### Registration Now Open!

Registration is now open for the 2010 ACCT Congress. To register and for more information, go to [www.acct.org/events/annualcongress/10/](http://www.acct.org/events/annualcongress/10/). A reminder to those who registered for the February 2010 National Legislative Summit and were unable to attend in March: You may redeem your NLS vouchers for the 2010 ACCT Congress. Just register as usual and enter your voucher code when prompted.



## REMINDERS: 2010 ACCT Awards Call for Nominations

In recognition of the tremendous contribution made by trustees, chief executives, and faculty members to community colleges, the ACCT annually recognizes one exemplary trustee, chief executive, faculty member, professional board staff, and an example of institutional equity in each of its five regions. One awardee will be selected from each region for each category. Regional award recipients are then automatically nominated for national-level ACCT Association Awards, which will be presented at the 2010 ACCT Leadership Congress in Toronto, Canada. All nominations are due by Friday, July 2. To download the Call for Nominations, go to [www.acct.org/about/regionalannual/](http://www.acct.org/about/regionalannual/).

## Governance Leadership Institute for New Trustees

### Register Today!

This August 4-6, ACCT will host the second annual Governance Leadership Institute for New Trustees and their Presidents at the National Center for Higher Education in Washington, D.C. The popularity and benefits of this special GLI are evident in the numbers — more than 60 trustees and presidents showed up for an abbreviated half-day version of the New Trustees GLI during the 2010 National Legislative Summit — and in the praise it has received: Past participants have said the New Trustees GLI “should be mandatory for all trustees and presidents.” For more information and to register, go to [www.acct.org/events](http://www.acct.org/events).



# Fostering Community College Student Completion through Effective Governance



With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the Community College Leadership Program of The University of Texas at Austin (UT), are partnering to undertake a three-year initiative to design, develop, and implement the Governance Institute for Student Success (GISS) for board of trustees and presidents.

"Trustees work with policymakers at all levels to ensure that their colleges remain accessible, affordable, and accountable to their multiple constituencies," explained ACCT Chair Thomas M. Bennett, a trustee at Parkland College in Illinois. "Student completion and institutional accountability represent the most important public policy work that trustees can undertake to fulfill their governance and fiduciary responsibilities."

"The need for a renewed emphasis on student success propels the partnership of ACCT and CCLP to create the new Governance Institute for Student Success," said ACCT President and CEO J. Noah Brown.

The new Governance Institute for Student Success initiative will blend ACCT's esteemed Governance Leadership Institute (GLI) and CCLP's highly-rated Board of Trustees Institute to provide the foundation for transformational work with governing boards of community and technical colleges to increase student success and attainment as governance priorities.

"The new blended institute initiative is a remarkable and unprecedented opportunity to reinforce the skills and knowledge bases of community college trustees throughout the country," said ACCT Vice President for Research, Education and Board Leadership Services Dr. Narcisa A. Polonio. "We are grateful to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for recognizing this need and we are eager to begin expanding the model."

"The opportunity to blend good governance practices with the work we have been doing on student success with Texas trustees is truly exciting," said CCLP Project Director Byron

McClenney.

"Community colleges are absolutely vital to our nation's higher education system and economy but to ensure they deliver this promise, it is critical we improve college completion rates," said Diane Troyer, Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "We applaud the trustees' commitment to ensuring their colleges identify current completion rates, and put the policies and program in place to improve completion." The grant represents the mutual interests of ACCT, the CCLP, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in improving community college student completion rates.

Ohio will be established as the test pilot state with the 23 community colleges invited to participate in one of two institutes later this year.

"We are excited that Ohio has been selected as the pilot state for this promising new program," said Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. "The Governance Institute for Student Success will help ensure that our community college governing boards are informed and equipped to take a leadership role at their colleges during a time of increased enrollment and focus on practical workforce training."

"We look forward to working with the partners of the Governance Institute for Student Success and supporting this groundbreaking effort," said Ohio Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut. This initiative perfectly aligns with Ohio's 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education, which aims to graduate more students and employ them in our state."

For more information please contact:



Dr. Narcisa A. Polonio  
(202) 276-1983  
npolonio@acct.org

Tonya Y. Harley  
(202) 775- 4460  
tharley@acct.org



Community College Leadership Program

Dr. Byron McClenney  
(512) 471-4484  
bmcclenney@mail.utexas.edu

Dr. Margaretta B. Mathis  
(512) 232-6226  
mbmathis@austin.utexas.edu