

Winter 2009

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

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From the President & CEO

Access for Success



EDUCATION POLICY IS SHIFTING IN AMERICA.

Today, a new paradigm is emerging for the nation's community and technical colleges, and for all of education. President Obama's efforts to focus the national conversation on making community and technical colleges successful are unprecedented.

While access has historically been both a defining feature and an imperative for community and technical college leaders, increasing emphasis is being placed on moving from an enrollment-driven policy to one that emphasizes student success and achievement. In short, community and technical college leaders increasingly are being called upon to focus on balancing access with success.

To reach this goal, the ACCT Board has established six new strategic priorities:

- Advocating for federal funding and programmatic priorities that balance access and success;
- Helping to define benchmarks for student success;
- Partnering to refine and expand the practice of effective governance;
- Helping boards shift from enrollment-driven policies to student success and completion policies;
- Advancing a more holistic approach to education, including alignment between K-12 systems and community colleges; and
- Assisting boards' efforts to communicate with their communities and policymakers.

These goals will not only help trustees lead America's community colleges to meet the goals formulated in the nation's capital, but also assist our communities in meeting the challenges of strengthening economic conditions and the depth and talent of the labor force available to employers.

In addition to the exciting changes occurring in the public policy realm, we welcome a new ACCT Board Chair in this issue of *Trustee Quarterly*. Thomas M. Bennett, a trustee from Parkland College in Illinois, assumed the gavel at the San Francisco Congress. We are pleased to feature Tom in this issue, as well as highlight his interests and priorities as he leads the ACCT Board during the coming year.

We also capture the energy and focus of the 40th Annual ACCT Leadership Congress, which by many accounts was the best Congress yet, and look ahead to the 2010 Community College National Legislative Summit. The NLS, as always, provides an opportunity to interact directly with national leaders and influence the agenda for our institutions.

This issue also contains thoughtful commentary on legislative issues from Rep. Dale Kildee (D-Mich.) and ACCT Director of Public Policy Jee Hang Lee, as well as meditations on board dynamics for your continuing information and education. Even if legal matters don't normally pertain to you, I also greatly encourage you to read this issue's Legal column by ACCT Legal Counsel Ira Michael Shepard. Ira's article details a federal tax credit that could save your college a lot of money — but you need to act now to take advantage of it in 2010.

While we have accomplished a great deal together over the past year, we have much more to do. I look forward to seeing you at the NLS in Washington, D.C., this February 8-10, to continue advancing the mission and goals of the community college movement.

J. NOAH BROWN
ACCT PRESIDENT AND CEO