

AROUND THE REGIONS



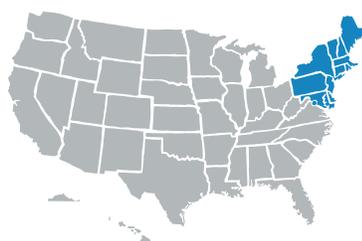
CENTRAL REGION

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer visited Mott Community College to sign a budget bill that provides record funding for K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities. An increase of 15.6 percent from the current fiscal year, the bill allocates \$550.3 million for community colleges and includes “one-time” money arising from federal coronavirus relief payments and a state budget surplus.

Ivy Tech Community College in **Indiana** received a \$4 million grant for its Expanding Registered Apprenticeship Programs (ERAP) project.

Madison Area Technical College in **Wisconsin** will lead the Center for Renewable Energy Advanced Technology Education (CREATE), which through a \$7.5 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant will provide a community of practice for more than 900 national STEM educators. Other participating institutions include Florida’s Indian River State College (IRSC), Central Carolina Community College (North Carolina), College of the Canyons (California) and Delaware Technical Community College.

A new certificate program at Owens Community College in **Ohio** trains students to become media influencers, expected to be a \$15 billion industry in 2022. The new certificate program aims to teach students visual storytelling techniques, including photography, videography, and graphic design, in addition to website building and advertising skills.



NORTHEAST REGION

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker announced \$15 million in funding for workforce training programs for all 15 of the Commonwealth’s community colleges. A collaboration between Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) and the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MACC) will be responsible for administering the grant program in conjunction with the Executive Office of Education, Labor and Workforce Development, and regional Workforce Investment Boards.

New York will grant a consortium of the six Hudson Valley community colleges \$1 million to create pathways to employment in the emerging cannabis industry. Orange County Community College will lead the regional effort, which includes Dutchess Community College, Rockland Community College, Sullivan County Community College, Ulster County Community College, and Westchester Community College.

Maine Community Colleges (MCC) saw new applications rise 13.4% since last year, higher than pre-pandemic application numbers in 2019. Nearly 80% of the new accepted applicants qualify for two years of free community college under a new \$20 million program in Maine’s supplemental budget.

The city of Philadelphia, **Pennsylvania** will allocate \$10.8 million this year to the Octavius Catto Scholarship program, which covers tuition and other expenses for Community College of Philadelphia students.



PACIFIC REGION

Beginning this month, **Arizona** students attending Maricopa Community Colleges whose jobs or income were affected by the pandemic can receive free tuition, monthly stipends, and employment help in a range of workforce programs from manufacturing to health care at the county’s 10 community colleges. Phoenix is using \$7 million of its federal pandemic relief dollars to fund the Route to Relief program, which will run through December 2024.

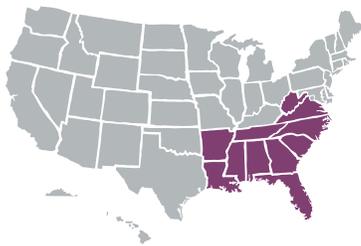
The U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded Tohono O’odham Community College in Arizona nearly \$2 million as part of the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC). The college will use the grant to address a lack of high-speed internet access, connectivity, and increase technological equity both at the college and in the surrounding communities on Tohono O’odham Nation. The CMC program is part of President Biden’s Internet-for-All initiative.

California lawmakers are providing \$1.4 billion in grants to 26 public campuses this year to build or expand student housing. A new policy also requires every campus to hire a coordinator to begin establishing a physical basic needs center. Resources offered differ from campus to campus, but most help students experiencing housing and food insecurity. Some also offer supports including paying for auto insurance, finding low-cost medical care, paying for internet, and applying for public benefits.

The Los Angeles Community College District will go to voters in November with a \$5.3 billion bond proposal to revamp aging buildings, upgrade athletic fields, and outfit classrooms with new technology across the district's nine campuses.

The University of **Hawai'i** Community Colleges have been awarded a \$16.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish a sustainable regional workforce training system. The "Resilient Hawai'i: Good Jobs Challenge" initiative will invest in four industry sectors: clean energy, creative industries, healthcare, and technology. The system also continues to offer free short-term training leading to industry credentials in healthcare, technology, and the skilled trades through the Hana Career Pathways program.

With teacher shortages across the country, West Valley School District (WVSD) in **Washington** has worked directly with the Teacher Education Program at Yakima Valley College, which offers a Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Education and a residency program requiring hands-on working experience within classrooms. The program has helped address staffing issues and provides candidates familiar with the district and its curriculum, officials say.



SOUTHERN REGION

In response to the need for more maintenance technicians in the state's multi-billion-dollar forestry, poultry, and egg industries, the **Alabama** Community College System (ACCS) is collaborating

with the Alabama Forestry Association (AFA) and Alabama Poultry & Egg Association (APEA) on a new credential that provides training to high school agriculture educators and their students.

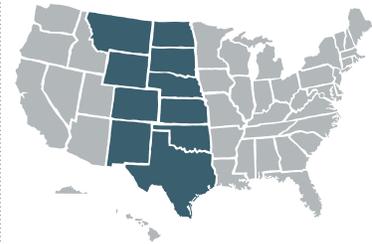
Nearly 800 Alabamians have signed up for a new rapid workforce training platform launched earlier this year by ACCS. The Skills for Success program is training people to get their commercial driver licenses, drive school buses, and work in the restaurant and hospitality industries. More industry specific certifications are being added, and nearly 300 people have completed the certificate programs to date.

Virginia's Community Colleges (VCCS) introduced the Virginia Infrastructure Academy (VIA) to "coordinate, scale up, and replicate" infrastructure-related community college training programs statewide, with a goal of producing a total of 35,000 qualified workers over the next five years. Virginia companies are struggling to fill more than 100,000 infrastructure jobs, according to labor market analytics firm EMSI.

The NC Reconnect initiative, a coalition of **North Carolina** higher education organizations and community colleges, said that the first year of a statewide initiative focused on reconnecting former students resulted in re-enrolling 753 stopped-out students, 68% of whom either completed their degree or credential or persisted on to the next term. The program will expand to serve a cohort of five additional community and technical colleges: Caldwell Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Lenoir Community College, and Wilkes Community College.

Louisiana Delta Community College

(LDCC), Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) and Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTC). formed the Workforce Training Alliance (WTA), which will business and industry training needs along the I-20 corridor from Texas to Mississippi. The WTA will be a one-stop shop to facilitate training in the region.



WESTERN REGION

Colorado is spending \$8.6 million on a new initiative that will let its seven rural community colleges share programs and services to give students access to a wider set of educational opportunities. The initiative started as part of the state's Rural College Consortium, which was formed just before the pandemic.

The Northeast **Texas** Community College (NTCC) Work4College Program puts students to work on the college farm to earn both paychecks and scholarship money. Work4College has seen marked growth annually with 85 students in 2021. The program has now expanded beyond on-campus positions, and several local high schools have partnered with NTCC to host workers during the summer.

Clovis Community College in **New Mexico** is expanding its allied healthcare programs to help provide students with more opportunities. The \$4 million expansion project will be funded by a state grant and matching support.

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 acctinfo@acct.org.