



Partners in Progress

DEAR ACCT MEMBERS,

I AM HONORED THAT NOVEMBER WILL mark my first year as president and CEO. In that time, I've traveled to over 30 campuses and state associations to meet face-to-face with our members. In addition, we've hosted multiple virtual town halls and other online meetings to hear what's most important to you. The year has been an illuminating one, even though I've been with ACCT for over 16 years and already knew many of you well.

We've been through a lot together over the past few years in this slow-moving whirlwind of change. But make no mistake: our progress is steady, and all the shifting priorities and makeshift adaptations are part of the new foundation we are laying down together.

This issue of *Trustee Quarterly* is a manifestation of that transformation. Regular readers will notice some changes to the design of the magazine — a refresh to reflect our collective evolution.

This issue presents a lot of diverse content, including insights about what is top of mind for our members — namely, enrollments and students' basic needs, new ways to expand access and success through community partnerships, new realities facing community colleges, and the perspectives of regional accreditors who keep community colleges accountable. The throughline that connects them all is partnerships.

ACCT is privileged to serve as a nexus at which your communities intersect, and this magazine, our events, and our forthcoming online learning management system for trustees serve as a means by which to connect you to one

another to form a great web of interconnected knowledge, experience, and wisdom.

I want to thank our partners who contributed to this issue of *Trustee Quarterly*, including two members of our Corporate Council, TimelyMD and Edamerica, which share insights about helping students with mental health problems and helping colleges with enrollment challenges. Contributors also include Dr. Evon Walters, northwest region president of the Community College of Allegheny County, who describes a program through which both access and success have been improved through community partnerships. Included, too, is an insightful original article by Dr. Arthur Levine, author of *The Great Upheaval: Higher Education's Past, Present, and Uncertain Future*, who I personally asked to serve as a keynote speaker at this year's ACCT Leadership Congress. And they include other keynote speakers — six regional accreditors, a community college leader, and an outstanding community college alumnus — who will grace our stage at this fall's ACCT Leadership Congress.

Speaking of which, I am thrilled to report that this year's Congress is set to be attended by well over 1,600 members — a return to pre-pandemic participation.

New as it may be, we're getting back to a version of normal, evolved and better connected than ever. Stay tuned for further developments, and be sure to say hello this October in New York. I hope to see many of you on your campuses in the coming year.

JEE HANG LEE
ACCT President and CEO

We've been through a lot together over the past few years in this slow-moving whirlwind of change. But make no mistake: our progress is steady, and all the shifting priorities and makeshift adaptations are part of the new foundation we are laying down together.
