Report on the First National Baccalaureate Summit,
September 24-25, 2017, Las Vegas, Nevada
Meeting Our Goal: The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) partnered with the Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA) to bring a program packed with useful information and insight into the complexities of community colleges offering applied baccalaureate degrees. Our mutual goal to increase exposure to all aspects of these innovative degrees for participants to come away from this Summit with the information and with some “burning” questions answered was met. Attendees engaged deeply in the intricacies of community college baccalaureates and predominantly enjoyed learning the expertise and practical experiences that were shared at this 1st National Baccalaureate Summit, September 24-25, 2017, at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, prior to the 2017 ACCT Leadership Congress.

Program Structure: The program was designed to create a community that could provide participants with the most relevant information and insights that could be taken back to colleges or districts. The program was organized along two tracks. Track A was primarily for those from colleges who were considering implementing an applied baccalaureate degree, and Track B was for those from colleges more experienced with offering baccalaureate degrees. Many participants, however, reported attending both tracks.

Reflection: Particularly for college trustees and CEOs who will make some decisions about applied baccalaureates in their governing roles, reflection and discussion time were built in with our Table Topics arrangement at lunch time and the two plenary panel sessions at both the beginning and the end of the program. Attendees asked many questions and actively participated in our community of inquiry about Applied Science (BAS) and Bachelor of Science degrees offered by community colleges around the nation.

Program: Opening session: After welcomes by Mike Hansen, CCBA Board Chair, and Narcisa Polonio, ACCT Executive VP for Research, Education and Board Leadership Services, Hansen facilitated the opening panel entitled The Role of Applied Baccalaureate Degrees in Fulfilling the Community College Mission with three panelists, Dan Phelan, President, Jackson College in (MI), Constance Carroll, Chancellors San Diego CCD, (CA), and Shouan Pan, Chancellor, Seattle Colleges (WA). Their discussion established a foundation for a closer look at BAS programs in three community colleges. They addressed internal/external implications, financial considerations, university relationships and other dynamics critical to maintain the institutional mission.

Sessions: In addition to an opening and ending panel and lunch time reflection and discussion, there were 10 concurrent sessions. Over 90 people registered for the Summit, 19 of whom were also presenters and panelists. A copy of the program is attached. PowerPoints of each presentation are on the ACCT website.

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**Closing Panel:** Dr. Linda Thor, from Maricopa Community Colleges Governing Board, moderated a trustee panel on *The Role of the Governing Board* and asked questions for four trustees from four states:

- **Carmen Gayton**, College Trustee, Washington
- **Richard Anderson**, Board Secretary, Illinois
- **Michael Monaghan**, Executive Director, Illinois Community College Trustees Association
- **Roberto Zarate**, Trustee, Alamo Colleges and ACCT Board of Directors

**Materials:** Participants received packets including national data and information about community college baccalaureate degrees, including a national baccalaureate map for 2017, an article by Beth Hagen, CCBA Executive Director, entitled *Early History of Conferring Baccalaureate Degrees by Community Colleges*, and other resources such as *The Role of Two-Year Public Institutions in Bachelor’s Attainment* by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Additionally, they received scoring rubrics and sample applications for BAS pilots, and an applied baccalaureate degree supply/demand gap rubric for colleges and other useful materials handed out at individual presentations. Most of those materials can be found on the [ACCT Trustee Education website](https://www.acctnet.org/trustee-education) under 2017 Baccalaureate Summit.

**Evaluation Results:** Opening session, September 24: Fourteen persons completed evaluations for the opening panel session, one of the most highly rated of all sessions. Averages for each question are based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree.

![Evaluation of Opening Baccalaureate Session](image)

Comments on this opening panel included “excellent panel” and “would have liked to see union input in the panel.” One person indicated that: “Panelists were very informative and well versed to present new updates to political landscape.”

**Overall Evaluations, September 25:** One third or 33% of participants completed the evaluation and feedback form for the Summit. Of those 28 respondents, at the very end of the summit, 15 evaluations indicated “outstanding” ratings and 13 indicated “very good.” Similar results were indicated when respondents were asked about the quality of the Summit’s content. Fourteen indicated “outstanding” and 13 indicated “very good,” and one indicated “Good.” Comments from respondents included:

- Very informative—comprehensive review of the complexities that surface for community colleges that become baccalaureate granting institutions.
- Just a very well-done event with interesting and practical information as well as a good background on the issue
- This was great! Can’t wait to the next workshop.
Future Topics: When asked about future topics and their interest in attending another workshop/conference on baccalaureates on a more advanced level in the future, several respondents wanted more on the program design of these applied degrees, the finances, and more advanced information regarding accreditation regarding BAS degrees. Of note, a topic of interest to trustees was “Latino success in BAS degrees and poverty trends and how the BAS can close the poverty gap.” Other comments included:

- Curriculum design, higher level accreditation
- Yes, more about program design
- Yes, would love to send a small team to the design session
- Also, accreditation, faculty development
- Tips on how to ID programs which align with workforce and your state
- Working with state legislators
- Financing, strategy-political
- Nuts and bolts, planning timeline, project plans. Nursing is a focus
- Issues facing established programs
- New emerging degrees that require a complete 4-year program
- Reporting and collections of data for the established bac programs
- More of the same, finances, etc.
- Many states take years to move this forward. A process session could be useful.

Future Role of ACCT and CCBA: When asked about how ACCT and CCBA could be more helpful, responses indicated an interest in a focus on students of color and “how the BAS can be an asset for community colleges in predominantly poor communities.” Comments included:

- Educate our administration
- Allow someone to pay some as a contractor to move these issues forward. Why do we keep recreating the wheel?
- Being available for consultation.
- Provide curricular models.
- Add resources recommended by attendees
- A toolkit or guide for working with legislators.
- Data and research on website easily accessible.
- Continue to offer support, liaisons, etc. through the process.
- Proposal design assistance, curriculum design.
- Help advocate for more baccalaureate programs
- More summits like this!

Overall, evaluations were very positive concerning all sessions, although a handful would have appreciated a relaxed luncheon session. Summit attendees very much appreciated how we covered the realistic landscape for these applied degrees. In fact, the best testimonial to our success is the impact of the Summit on participants as is noted in this story from the Marietta Times.

For further information on the Summit: All presentations, program materials, and other resources can be found on ACCT’s Trustee Education page website. Contact Dr. Norma Goldstein at 202-775-6488/ngoldstein@acct.org.