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## Moving Forward

DEAR ACCT MEMBERS,

I'M PLEASED AND, IF I MAY SAY, PROUD to look back at what we have accomplished over the past year, and to look forward toward more groundbreaking developments on the horizon for your association.

If you weren't able to participate in the senate meeting during ACCT Leadership Congress this past fall, then you may not have seen our annual State of the Association report — *Forward*. The report highlights just some of our achievements over the past fiscal year, from First Lady Jill Biden, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh headlining the 2022 Community College National Legislative Summit and major legislative “wins” for community colleges to the launch of the ACCT Center for Policy and Practice; visits to an unprecedented number of member colleges; diversity, equity, and inclusion advancements, and more. If you haven't reviewed it, I encourage you to check it out on the “About Us” page of ACCT.org.

I mention last year's accomplishments because I am excited as I look forward to the coming year — my second full year as ACCT's president and CEO.

Before doing anything else, please read our cover story on ACCT Board Chair Rose Benavidez, a trustee from South Texas College. Her story, which is also her family's story, and

similar to the stories of so many of our students, reflects both an outstanding legacy and our forward momentum. And her story is also the story of all our members, as Rose has deep ties to her community and to her community college, and as she says, her commitment is moving us forward.

In this issue of *Trustee Quarterly*, you will notice a new feature: a column called “Connect,” written by our recently installed (but already very accomplished!) Vice President for Membership and Educational Services, Robin Matross Helms. Robin has joined ACCT to strengthen connections with our members — with you — and I urge you to read her column and to get to know her as we work together to advance the association's work and your work as a community college trustee.

Please take time to read through this new issue of *Trustee Quarterly*. The articles were selected to help you stay up to date about what's happening at ACCT and where we are headed next, to make you a better board member for your college, to update you on important news from within the sector, and to enlist your support as an advocate for your college and for all community colleges throughout the country. We're moving forward together.

**JEE HANG LEE**  
*ACCT President and CEO*