

ACCT Board of Directors Appoints New President and CEO

Jee Hang Lee has served ACCT for 15 years.



The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that it has chosen **Jee Hang Lee** to serve as the new President and CEO of ACCT after a lengthy search for a successor to its current, long-serving President and CEO **J. Noah Brown**.

Lee's presidency will become effective on November 1, 2021. He is ACCT's current Senior Vice President and has been with ACCT for 15 years, having served previously as Vice President for Public Policy and External Relations. He holds a master's degree in political management from The George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from Boston University.

"The ACCT Board is delighted to have selected Jee Hang Lee to continue and enhance the job J. Noah Brown has done in elevating the voice of community colleges and their boards as we navigate the challenges of the future with regard to student success, workforce development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion," says ACCT Chair **David Mathis**, trustee at Mohawk Valley Community College. "We are grateful for the outpouring of interest in the position and commend the many applicants who applied for the position for their interest in ACCT."

NEWS



ACCT Regional Awardees Announced



ACCT is pleased to announce the recipients of its annual Regional Awards for community college trustees, equity programs, chief executive officers, faculty members, and professional board staff members. The 2021 ACCT Awards program is sponsored by Edamerica, an ACCT Corporate Council member that provides solutions that support community colleges' missions to serve students.

ACCT's Regional Awards recognize the tremendous contributions made by community colleges and their leaders to meet the needs of their communities. The awards will be presented during the 2021 ACCT Leadership Congress on October 15 in San Diego, California.

"Community colleges and their leaders have been vital to our country's educational infrastructure and our workforce for over a century," says ACCT Chair and Mohawk Valley Community College Trustee David Mathis. "This year, perhaps more than ever before, community college leaders have proved themselves to be essential community service providers and educators in the face of unprecedented challenges and adversity."

"ACCT is proud to shine a spotlight on some of the nation's best public servants and professionals through our regional awards program," says ACCT President and CEO J. Noah Brown. "The 2021 awardees reflect the extraordinary commitments and accomplishments of the people who dedicate their lives to helping students succeed. Congratulations to all of this year's awards recipients."

Regional ACCT Awards were announced, one region per day, from July 26 – 30 via ACCT's Twitter account (@CCTrustees).

The full list of awardees follows.

2021 Trustee Leadership Award Recipients

CENTRAL REGION: Thomas Milligan, Edison State Community College, Ohio
NORTHEAST REGION: Victor Richel, Union County College, N.J.
WESTERN REGION: Gigi Edwards Bryant, Austin Community College District, Texas
PACIFIC REGION: Demion Clinco, Pima Community College District, Ariz.
SOUTHERN REGION: George Little, Sandhills Community College, N.C.

2021 Equity Award Recipients

CENTRAL REGION: Madison Area Technical College, Wisc.
NORTHEAST REGION: Hudson County Community College, N.J.
WESTERN REGION: Austin Community College District, Texas
PACIFIC REGION: Mt. Hood Community College, Ore.
SOUTHERN REGION: Atlanta Technical College, Georgia

2021 Chief Executive Officer Award Recipients

CENTRAL REGION: David H. Devier, Glen Oaks Community College, Mich.
NORTHEAST REGION: Murray K. Hoy, Wor-Wic Community College, Md.
WESTERN REGION: Juan Mejia, Tyler Junior College, Texas
PACIFIC REGION: Lisa Rhine, Yavapai College, Ariz.
SOUTHERN REGION: Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community & Technical College System, La.

2021 Faculty Member Award Recipients

CENTRAL REGION: Kenneth Walz, Madison Area Technical College, Wisc.
NORTHEAST REGION: Debonair Oates-Primus, Community College of Philadelphia, Pa.
PACIFIC REGION: Mays Imad, Pima Community College District, Ariz.
SOUTHERN REGION: Eric Goff, Midlands Technical College, S.C.

2021 Professional Board Staff Member Award Recipients

CENTRAL REGION: Rebecca McNulty, Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College, Ky.
NORTHEAST REGION: Cynthia Gruskos, Brookdale Community College, N.J.
PACIFIC REGION: Margaret Lamb, San Diego Community College District, Calif.
SOUTHERN REGION: Sara Kleinpeter, Louisiana Community & Technical College System, La.

New ACCT Paper Assesses Value of Community College Short-Term Credentials

Report recommends policy changes to reflect true student needs.

ACCT published a new report in July that assesses short-term community college credential program outcomes in three states, with support from the ECMC Foundation. In addition to finding that many employer-aligned short-term programs can lead to increased wages and a higher quality of life for students who complete them, *The Value of Community College Short-Term Credentials* reviews existing published literature and offers recommendations to help modernize the nation's federal postsecondary policies to reflect the true needs of today's students.

"A major limitation of assessing the value of short-term credentials offered by community colleges is a lack of publicly available data on students' academic success and employment outcomes," says ACCT President and CEO **J. Noah Brown**.

"Prior studies on these programs typically assess data of all short-term credentials across higher education, which limits the ability to identify specifically how community college students fare. This report aims to begin to fill this gap."

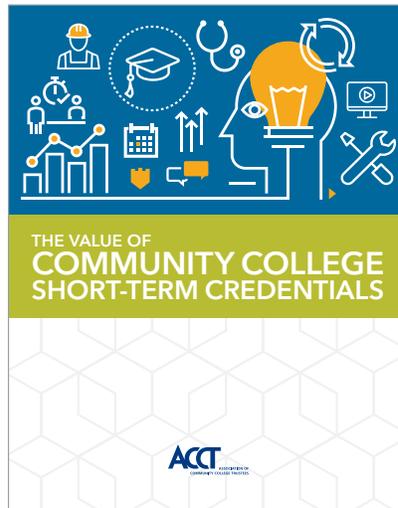
"We are pleased to see ACCT's evaluation culminate in this final report," says **Peter Taylor**, EMC Foundation president. "It is our hope that these findings better inform a quality debate on the topic of Short Term Pell, a decision that may have a significant impact on low-income learners, learners of color, and adult learners."

For this study, ACCT collected data from three statewide community college systems: **Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), North Carolina Community Colleges (NCCC), and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS)**. In addition to quantitative data analysis, ACCT interviewed leaders from each college system to gain insights on program characteristics, implementation, and strategies to connect students to careers in their fields of study.

In addition to finding that many community college short-term credentialing programs lead to higher wages and an improved quality of life, the research combined with existing literature revealed several needs for which the authors offered recommendations, including:

- **Expand Pell Grant eligibility to short-term education and training programs by:**
 - Lowering the clock-hour threshold for Pell Grant eligibility;
 - Ensuring short-term programs lead to recognized postsecondary credentials; and
 - Ensuring short-term programs can articulate to longer-term educational pathways.
- **Support student success during and after program participation by:**
 - Funding community college and business partnerships; and
 - Expanding basic needs services for students in short-term programs.
- **Improve data infrastructure to connect students' academic and employment outcomes.**

Download the report at www.acct.org.



LET THE LAW WORK FOR YOU

Timing is everything when it comes to advocacy, but not everyone has time to pay attention to pending legislation day in and day out.

ACCT's Latest Action in Washington (LAW) Alerts do the work for you.

Since 2008, nearly 1,900 people have signed up to receive ACCT's LAW Alert emails — brief summaries of legislative actions emailed to subscribers as legislation happens, giving community college trustees, presidents, and other leaders and advocates time to contact their representatives and exert influence before it's too late.

Please encourage your fellow trustees, presidents, and colleagues to stay up to date about legislation that affects their community colleges by joining the LAW E-Alert network. To join, simply email publicpolicy@acct.org with "LAW Alert" in the subject of the email.

For more information about ACCT's advocacy services, visit www.acct.org/advocacy.

Model Standards of Good Practice for Trustee Boards

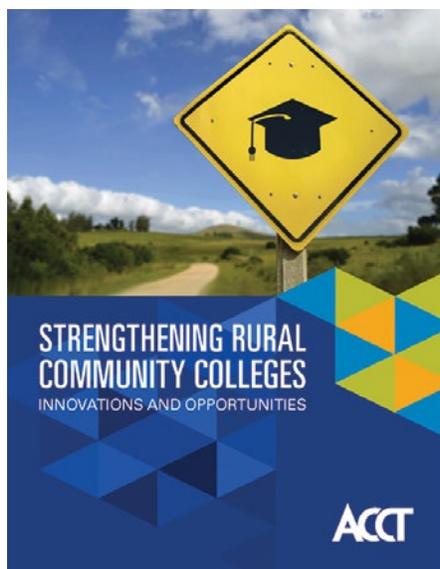
In Support of Effective Community College Governance, the Board Believes:

- That it derives its authority from the community and that it must always act as an advocate on behalf of the entire community;
- That it must clearly define and articulate its role;
- That it is responsible for creating and maintaining a spirit of true cooperation and a mutually supportive relationship with its CEO;
- That it always strives to differentiate between external and internal processes in the exercise of its authority;
- That its trustee members should engage in a regular and ongoing process of in-service training and continuous improvement;
- That its trustee members come to each meeting prepared and ready to debate issues fully and openly;
- That its trustee members vote their conscience and support the decision or policy made;
- That its behavior, and that of its members, exemplify ethical behavior and conduct that is above reproach;
- That it endeavors to remain always accountable to the community;
- That it honestly debates the issues affecting its community and speaks with one voice once a decision or policy is made.

**The term "board" refers to a community college board of trustees or appropriate governing authority.*

ACCT Expands Initiative to Strengthen America's Rural Community Colleges

Next phase of project to establish a nationwide network, offer technical support for federal funding opportunities.



In June, ACCT announced its commitment to continue and expand the work of its Strengthening Rural Community Colleges research and awareness-building initiative. The study will be funded by a 17-month, \$245,681 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"ACCT is grateful to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for investing in this initiative, which is vital to the success and well-being of community college students throughout the rural United States," says ACCT Chair **David Mathis**, a trustee at Mohawk Valley Community College. "Many rural community colleges are linchpins in sustaining the vitality of their communities, providing educational and vocational training opportunities

that cannot be sourced anywhere else. They empower students in rural communities with bright financial futures, and they supply area businesses with a well-educated and technically advanced workforce."

"This project will build on ACCT's prior work through the Strengthening Rural Community Colleges report that engaged rural community college presidents and trustees to gather information about the challenges faced by these institutions," says ACCT President and CEO **J. Noah Brown**. "One of the findings of this work was that rural colleges did not feel that they had a way to connect with one another to share ideas and discuss issues. They also expressed concern over the many barriers to accessing federal grant funding."

The project will encompass three components:

1. Convening rural community college leaders to establish a new nationwide network;
2. Providing technical support, assistance, and information to rural colleges that seek funding; and
3. Providing other information relevant to rural ACCT member community colleges via a dedicated website, which will also be made available to higher education stakeholders and state and federal policymakers.

"Based on our intensive research into the needs of rural community colleges over the past 18 months, we know that America's rural community colleges and their students have needs that are not currently being met, says ACCT Senior Vice President **Jee Hang Lee**, who serves as the project lead. "The next phase of our holistic Strengthening Rural Community Colleges initiative will engage a minimum of 55 colleges, including at least five tribal colleges, to ensure broad geographic and cultural representation of rural community colleges. ACCT will work with these colleges as well as partners and affiliates to ensure that rural interests are understood at the federal level and met to the greatest extent possible."

To learn more about the rural colleges initiative, visit <https://rural.acct.org>.

ACCT Joins National Governors Association in State Equitable Recovery Coalition

Group established to help states advance inclusive economic growth.

In June, ACCT joined The National Governors Association's (NGA) new State Equitable Recovery Coalition. The Coalition is a partnership of national organizations established to build on existing efforts to drive equitable economic recovery championed by the governors of states and territories.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a major economic toll on communities throughout the country," says ACCT President and CEO **J. Noah Brown**. "Community colleges throughout the country are well positioned to help their local workforces rebound strongly in the wake of the historic past year. We look forward to joining forces with other national organizations through the State Equitable Recovery Coalition to ensure that economic recovery is inclusive and robust across the United States."

The coalition will complement existing networks that NGA and other organizations are working with to take advantage of shared expertise to help drive a sustainable, equitable recovery from the economic disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, while leveraging the opportunity to address workforce, education, public services, and racial and economic justice.

The State Equitable Recovery Coalition, in partnership with Education Strategy Group (ESG) and supported by the Siemens Foundation, will build on these initiatives and others to connect strategically to maximize networks, expertise, and resources on behalf of the governors of states and territories and the workers they represent.

The coalition will provide technical support to help advance governors' community and economic recovery goals over a period of a year. In addition to NGA and ESG, 16 organizations have joined the coalition: ACCT, Advance CTE, the American Public Human Services Association, Ascend at the Aspen Institute, the Center for Law and Social Policy, the Coalition on Adult Basic Education, Goodwill Industries International, the Institute for Women's Policy Research, JFF, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the National Association of Workforce Boards, the National Skills Coalition, the National Urban League, New America, the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, and UnidosUS.

The NGA Center for Best Practices also will host a series of action labs for governors' staff and state teams that focus on intersectional issues with the common goal of increasing economic opportunity for low-income students and workers, particularly Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities and women, while achieving racial equity in access, success, and outcomes in postsecondary education and workforce development programs. These action labs will be focused on tangible steps states can take to advance these goals.

Visit the NGA website at NGA.org for more information about the coalition.

New ACCT Paper Investigates the Digital Divide at Community Colleges

Digital Divide: How Technology Access Impacts Community Colleges Across the United States During a Pandemic examines the current state of the digital divide in the United States and how it is affecting community college students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leaders at community colleges in Spokane, Washington, Los Angeles, California, and on the Navajo Reservation were interviewed to show what the digital divide looks like in an urban, a suburban, and a rural community and how it is affecting each college's students. While all colleges are faced with different circumstances, similarities emerge as the digital divide impacts students across the country.

The paper also looks at how the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act impacted the digital divide within the community college sector.

Download the report at ACCT.org.

