

SPRING 2022

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From the President & CEO

Let's Get Together



Dear ACCT Members,

ACCT'S MISSION FOCUSES EQUALLY ON COMMUNITY college advocacy and trustee education, but all our work boils down to meeting members' needs. Before taking the reins as ACCT's chief executive officer, I served for 16 years in a variety of capacities that included setting the direction on public policy, membership, and other initiatives. What motivated me to declare my candidacy was the possibility of realizing ideas I gestated for years about how to get more involved with and better serve your institutions.

Six months in, I'm happy to report that we're making good progress.

Last fall and winter, we convened a virtual listening tour so that ACCT's staff and I could learn what's on your mind. Through that process, we've gotten a better grasp of what you need and want from your national governance association, and what challenges and opportunities your institutions and board members are being met with. This vitally important information factors into our day-to-day programmatic and advocacy work, and it will factor into the ACCT Board of Directors' strategic planning process this summer.

Almost 20 years ago, ACCT's leadership and membership agreed to discontinue convening regional meetings for a variety of reasons, a primary one of which was that they were financially unsustainable for the association. Yet I've heard the requests of many of you to reinstate some form of regional meeting. This is a new day and age, and technology presents us with new opportunities. This spring, we are convening virtual meetings for each of our five regions. These are opportunities for ACCT members to share information with the association as well as to connect, share information and ideas, and develop regionally relevant plans together. I can't tell you how thrilled I am that we are able to meet this need. I hope you and your colleagues will take advantage of these new meeting opportunities, and I urge you to let our staff know what you like, what you learn, what you need us to know, and what we could be doing better.

Since November, I have visited 15 member colleges, 11 state community college associations, and the convenings of six other relevant organizations, including those of the American Association of Community Colleges, the U.K. Association of Colleges, the Bellwether Community College Consortium, the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the Rural Community College Alliance. It's been a lot of travel — and it's exactly what I have been itching to do for so many years, to see so many of you face to face on your own turf and to get to know your communities better.

However we do it, whether it's at the ACCT Leadership Congress and Community College National Legislative Summit, on your campus, or online, let's get together. Every single thing that this association does is in service to your board and your institution. I — and my hardworking staff — need to know you to know what you need from us. I look forward to getting to know you better in the coming months and years.

JEE HANG LEE
ACCT PRESIDENT AND CEO