Community College of Baltimore County, Ocean County College, Houston Community College Receive 2022 Bellwether Awards

Three community colleges — Community College of Baltimore County, Ocean County College in New Jersey, and Houston Community College — were honored with 2022 Bellwether Awards.

The Bellwether College Consortium is comprised of award-winning colleges charged with addressing critical issues facing community colleges through applicable research and the promotion and replication of best practices addressing workforce development, instructional programs and services, and planning, governance, and finance. The nationally recognized Bellwether Awards focus on cutting-edge, trendsetting programs worthy of replication. Each year, 30 community colleges are deemed finalists from a large group of applicants in the United States and its territories. The selected colleges compete for one of three Bellwether Awards. The 2022 awards were presented on Tuesday, March 1.

Community College of Baltimore County in Maryland was presented the 2022 Instructional Programs & Services Bellwether Award for programs or activities that have been designed and successfully implemented to foster or support teaching and learning in the community college. The college received the award for “General Education as a Mechanism to Promote Equitable Access to High-Impact Practices.”

Ocean County College in New Jersey was presented the 2022 Workforce Development Category Bellwether Award for public and/or private strategic alliances and partnerships that promote community and economic development by producing workforce. The college received the award for “Meet Reggie: The AI Chatbot Transforming Ocean County College.”

Houston Community College in Texas was presented the 2022 Planning, Governance & Finance Bellwether Award for programs or activities that have been designed and successfully implemented to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the community college. The college received the award for “Celebrating Entrepreneurship: The Foundation of America’s Economy.”

To learn more about the Bellwether College Consortium and the Bellwether Awards, visit bellwethercollegeconsortium.com.

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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.*
Rep. Richard Neal Honored for Bipartisan Service to Education, Bryce McKibben Receives Government Relations Award

Rep. Richard Neal, second from left, with (from left) AACC Chair Richard Rhodes, Holyoke Community College President Christina Royal, ACCT Chair James Cooksey, ACCT President & CEO Jee Hang Lee.

Bryce McKibben, center, with (from left) Rhodes, Washington State Association of College Trustees Director Kim Tanaka, Cooksey, Lee.

The award is presented annually to a national leader or leadership team who have made extraordinary contributions to national public policies and resources that support education, training, and postsecondary learning.

In conjunction with the 2021 Community College National Legislative Summit, ACCT and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) recognized Rep. Richard Neal (D-Mass.) with the 2022 National Education Service Award. The award is presented annually to a national leader or leadership team who have made extraordinary contributions to national public policies and resources that support education, training, and postsecondary learning. As chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Neal was instrumental in the inclusion of the Tax-Free Pell Grant Act, which would prevent students from being taxed on the portion of their Pell award which exceeds tuition costs, in the Build Back Better Act passed by the House this fall. He was also instrumental in securing $1.2 billion in funding for a potential successor to the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training Grants (TAACCT) in proposed legislation.

Bryce McKibben, senior director of policy and advocacy at the Hope Center and a former senior policy advisor for Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and ACCT staffer, was presented with the 2022 Government Relations Award. In his role supporting Murray on the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions (HELP) Committee, McKibben played a key role in ensuring passage of key community college priorities such as Year-Round Pell, Second Chance Pell, and ensuring that community colleges received a fair formula for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funding.
New Podcast Episodes on Governance Fundamentals, Student Trustees, More

"As a new trustee, I love your podcast and have learned so much from listening," reads a message we recently received. That's why we continue to create new episodes of In the Know With ACCT, building our library of over 100 episodes.

This season, we’re excited to be featuring episodes about the fundamentals of good governance, in addition to other topical themes. Recent episodes include:

- Community College Student Trustees
- Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh Addresses Community College Leaders
- Improving the Lives of Entire Families: Meet ACCT Board Chair Judge James Cooksey
- Lumina Foundation’s Million Dollar Community College Challenge
- Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona Addresses Community College Leaders
- 2022 Community College Legislative Summit Priorities with ACCT and AACC
- Helping Student Parents Succeed with Nicole Lynn Lewis of Generation Hope
- Get to Know Carrie Warick-Smith, ACCT’s New Vice President of Public Policy
- Get to Know Jee Hang Lee, ACCT’s New President and CEO
- And more

For listening options on your mobile device or computer, go to www.acct.org/podcast.

New Governance Book from Community College President

In The Community Board 2.0: Covenant Governance, Jackson College CEO Daniel J. Phelan provides the reader with a fresh and comprehensive approach to both considering and implementing an uncommon governance practice that emphasizes a lasting, effective, and sustaining relationship between the board and president. This discussion encapsulates pre-hiring practices and principles regarding CEO selection, onboarding, various board membership constructions (both appointed and elected), and new dimensions of board governance that emphasize competition, agility, transparency, effectiveness, and new business models. The discussion also includes elements of policy and bylaw design, intentional governance design and development, committee structures and use, parliamentary procedures, meeting construction and effectiveness, CEO contracts and evaluation, board self-evaluation, generative thinking and planning, transparency, and addressing board and organizational challenges.

Given that transitioning to a new, enhanced, or blended governance model can be difficult, the book offers suggestions and guidance about how to move toward a more preferred, effective model. This component will include tools, such as a strategy canvas, and other processes to assist boards in addressing questions along the way, such as how and where to begin, how to evaluate the efficacy of the current model, and how to structure the transition process and the timing thereof.

Order online at rowman.com, Amazon, or other major booksellers.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to Jackson College student scholarships.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

- June 13: ACCT Awards Nominations Due
- June 15 – 18: Governance Leadership Institute: Hawaii
- August 16: ACCT Leadership Congress Early Bird Registration Discount Ends
- October 3: ACCT Leadership Congress Hotel Reservation Deadline
Non-Credit & Credit Alignment Lab Participating Institutions Selected

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and Education Strategy Group (ESG) are pleased to announce the 14 community colleges selected to participate in the Non-Credit & Credit Alignment Lab (NCAL).

The NCAL is a two-year initiative to support 14 community college governance units’ efforts to develop new or improved pathways between non-credit and credit programs.

Non-Credit & Credit Alignment Lab Cohort
CUNY Community Colleges Consortium
Hudson County Community College
Jackson College
Lehigh Carbon Community College
Louisiana Community and Technical College System
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
North Iowa Area Community College
North Shore Community College
NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Prince George’s Community College
San Diego Community College District
San Jacinto College
University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges
Vance-Granville Community College

NCAL will provide meaningful spaces for community college leaders to learn and receive support from their peers and national experts. As part of this initiative, community colleges will collectively diagnose current efforts underway to align programs, set a vision, build the case among college constituencies, and receive accountability from their peers to implement. By the end of the initiative, each participating college will develop new or improve current pathways between non-credit and credit functions that address critical barriers to alignment related to program design, institutional policy, governance structures, administrative functions and student supports.

Through this initiative, ACCT and ESG will build the case among a greater number of community colleges that non-credit and credit alignment is critical for students because it provides a pathway to higher-level credentials that lead to higher wages and more sustainable careers — and for colleges, as it offers a new on-ramp for enrollments.

“The disconnect between credit and non-credit pathways has made it exceedingly difficult for students to advance in their career and educational pursuits,” said Peter J. Taylor, president of ECMC Foundation. “We’re thrilled to support the development of the Noncredit and Credit Alignment Lab because it has the potential to remove those barriers for students transitioning between programs and make meaningful credentials more attainable.”

To learn more, visit www.acct.org.