

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION 2021-2022

> **FORWARD**

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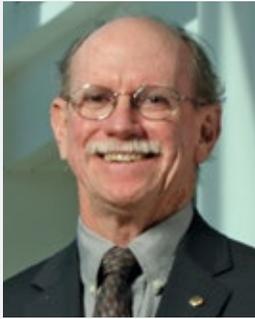
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“ Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. ”

—Albert Einstein

# Forward



**JAMES COOKSEY**  
Chair



**JEE HANG LEE**  
President and CEO

## DEAR ACCT MEMBERS AND PARTNERS,

When Dorothy Gale’s house was picked up by a tornado, she looked out the window and saw a chaotic maelstrom of life events. The house and everything in it, including Dorothy, appeared not to move—but when the whirlwind was gone, she found herself somewhere else entirely—a strange, vivid land called Oz.

Amid chaos, we often feel like we are swirling around, trying to stay afloat while dodging all kinds of ever-moving obstacles and dangers. Even though the past few years have felt a bit like we’ve been churning inside of a whirlwind while trying to keep our footing, we’ve been moving forward, and we’ve found ourselves in a world that, like Oz, is at once familiar and new. Everything has changed. Colleges have reopened classroom doors, and there are students in those classrooms—but now there are also students on backlit screens engaging remotely from their homes. Within just a few years, students have new and different expectations of our institutions, and more people than ever are questioning the value of higher education to their lives and their career prospects. Progress has been made by the sheer force of our environment, and we’ve landed in a new world.

And the truth is, as daunting as such major changes can be, they can also present unprecedented opportunities.

ACCT has new leadership—familiar, but new. Jee Hang Lee, ACCT’s advocacy lead of 15 years, advanced to become president and CEO in 2021, bringing with him insights from many years of experience and ideas that had been long gestating. He has also added new leadership with invaluable experiences from other realms of higher education. Robin Matross Helms is the association’s new vice president for membership and education services, bringing a strong business acumen and vast higher education experience, and Carrie Warick-Smith has come onboard as vice president for public policy—ACCT’s new chief advocate. Julie Golder continues to contribute decades of experience in her leadership of ACCT Search Services, with an eye toward finding the most talented, visionary and inclusive community college leaders to the sector.

ACCT is moving forward, maintaining our role as the nation’s leading advocate for community colleges while making concerted efforts to forge new and deeper connections with our members. This association is committed to making meaningful changes within our operations, among members and into the greater world. We are grateful for the support and engagement of all our members and partners, and we look forward to connecting ever more deeply as we move ahead.

# New Leadership

“ To be able to speak on behalf of community colleges and their students, we have to speak with them every single day. This is how we will keep our balance and keep moving forward. ”

Jee Hang Lee became ACCT’s fifth president and CEO in November of 2021. He previously served the association for 15 years as its director of public policy, vice president, and senior vice president.

Lee is one of the most recognizable faces in higher education advocacy, and advocacy always will be a top priority of the association. But he also has a special interest in reconnecting with members face to face. “While we’re all grateful for distance-learning and distance-working technologies,” he said, “no kind of communication is as powerful as meeting with people face to face.”

Lee traveled the country during his first year as president, representing ACCT at 17 state community college associations or other community college sector events, and visiting another 20 individual member colleges.

In addition to traveling to meet members, he invited members throughout the country to bring their ideas to ACCT through several townhall meetings that began in November and ran through the end of the calendar year. Hundreds of member trustees and presidents “zoomed in” during three 2021 townhall meetings and shared their support for the organization throughout the leadership transition.

Virtual meetings of this nature have proven to be invaluable, and this spring, ACCT hosted five regional meetings with more than 150 participants through which we shared information about the association, regional Board of Directors and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee candidates spoke to their regional peers, and reports and other discussions from state representatives took place.

“ACCT is the leading voice for community colleges in this country,” Lee said. “To be able to speak on behalf of community colleges and their students, we have to speak with them every single day. This is how we will keep our balance and keep moving forward.”



### ACCT MEMBER COMMUNITY COLLEGE VISITS

Bates Technical College, Washington	Broward College, Florida
Catawba Community College, North Carolina	Central Oregon Community College
Colby Community College, Kansas	College of Southern Maryland
Columbus State Community College, Ohio	Harold Washington College, Illinois
Cuyahoga Community College, Ohio	Miami Dade College, Florida
Community College of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Rockland Community College, New York
Heartland Community College, Illinois	South Puget Sound Community College, Washington
Mountain Gateway Community College (formerly Dabney Lancaster Community College, Virginia)	Windward Community College, Hawaii
San Diego City College, California	
Tacoma Community College, Washington	

### ASSOCIATION & AFFILIATE CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

American Association of Community Colleges	Association of Colleges, UK
Bellwether College Consortium	CC League of California Legislative Conference
Community College Association of Trustees of Texas	Illinois Community College Trustees Association
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees	Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges
Missouri Community College Association	National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship
New York Association of Community College Trustees	Ohio Community College Association
Oregon Community College Association	Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Rural Community College Alliance	Washington State Association of College Trustees
Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association	

# Reuniting

San Diego was the site of a reunion of sorts, as 1,200 trustees, presidents, students, and other community college stakeholders came together for the one of the sector's first national in-person events since the COVID-19 pandemic roiled campuses and the country in March 2020.

"It's been 24 months since we've been together," then-ACCT Board Chair David Mathis, trustee at Mohawk Valley Community College in New York, said during the opening session of the 2021 ACCT Leadership Congress. "I know the past year and a half has been a tremendous challenge for all of us, and I'm proud of how we've been able to continue serving our students and colleges during this difficult time."

Aside from masks and color-coded lanyards that signaled attendees' comfort levels with close contact, the day-to-day routine of the 2021 Congress was remarkably familiar. But the event also marked a time of transition — for then-ACCT President & CEO J. Noah Brown, who stepped down after a quarter century of service, and for the sector as a whole as it confronts a changed postpandemic landscape. With the theme "Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," Congress speakers urged attendees to heed the calls for racial justice that intensified in 2020 and lead by example. Other focus areas included multiple sessions dedicated to how pandemic relief funds were used to support students, meeting workforce needs, boosting enrollments and, of course, becoming better community college board members.

The conference concluded with forward momentum, as Brown passed the reins to incoming President and CEO Jee Hang Lee. "At ACCT, we will never lose sight of our commitment to all our students," incoming President Lee

said at the close of the ACCT Leadership Congress. "I am committed to building on ACCT's stellar legacy to do even more for our institutions, and specifically our students."

The ACCT Leadership Congress was not the only face-to-face meeting of the year. ACCT hosted two Governance Leadership Institutes in 2021 and 2022, the first hosted by the Community College of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania and the second hosted by the University of Hawai'i Winward Community College in Honolulu. The Hawaiian event was chosen for its convenience to ACCT members from the Pacific region, including Pacific Islanders who regularly travel to ACCT events throughout the continental United States.

During the pandemic, ACCT began to present educational webinars, and we have continued to do so to meet members' educational needs. ACCT's parliamentarian, Connie Deford, presented several webinar trainings on parliamentary procedures/Robert's Rules of Order, all of which reached maximum registration capacity. We will continue to provide similar services free of charge to members to meet demand, in addition to a comprehensive online learning and connecting platform to be launched next year. We're moving forward toward a more connected and inclusive ACCT.



# Advocacy Evolution

“ The Center is the link between the membership and policymakers. It will serve as an infrastructure through which services can expand intentionally so as to enhance the association’s mission. ”

## Center for Policy and Practice

In June, ACCT officially launched the Center for Policy and Practice. The Center is the link between the membership and policymakers. Its goal is to practically address challenges facing community colleges, inform policy recommendations, provide technical assistance, and aid in implementing new legislation. It represents a significant evolution for the association, designed to deepen our relevance and value to member institutions, and to serve as an infrastructure through which services can expand intentionally so as to enhance the association’s mission. Over the last year, the Center has engaged with the following primary projects:

- In partnership with the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) and the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP), ACCT is working to help community colleges strengthen and expand their participation in the SNAP E&T program as part of the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) National Partnership Grant**. In the second year of this three-year project, ACCT worked with Seattle Jobs Initiative to deliver a four-part webinar series on various aspects of SNAP E&T and is moving into individual meetings with six states to start developing institutional plans. ACCT joined NCAP at the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies conference to share how community colleges and community action agencies can partner to provide resources to students. In June, ACCT participated in an in-person symposium hosted by APHSA that will work with the cohort on utilizing SNAP E&T to help meet overall workforce development goals.
- The **Noncredit and Credit Alignment Lab** is supported by the ECMC Foundation. ACCT launched the Noncredit and Credit Alignment Lab (NCAL) in partnership with the Education Strategy Group (ESG). This two-year initiative will support 14 community college governance units’ efforts to develop new or improved pathways between non-credit and credit programs. Through the utilization of assigned coaches, initial self-assessments helped identify how the institutions were currently utilizing these pathways and how to start working on goals to improve them. Two community of practice events were held to start the development of goals and bring them to reality. A data tool was developed to facilitate consistency and a webinar was hosted to help provide guidance on its implementation.

# Center for Policy & Practice Spotlight:

## Strengthening Rural Community Colleges

The Strengthening Rural Community Colleges project, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has entered into its second phase. The focus of the second phase, which began in June of 2021, is building a rural institution network and providing technical assistance and other resources for the issues that came to light in phase one.

This included a convening of rural community college leaders at the ACCT National Legislative Summit where 63 individuals met with administration officials and staff on topics impacting rural institutions such as federal funding, housing, infrastructure, and broadband.

To enhance technical assistance for institutions, a robust webinar and peer-learning network series ramped up, focusing on topics including:

- Cultivating Digital Equity
- Protecting the Mental Health of Rural Community College Students
- Community Facilities
- Rural Health Grants
- DEI & Employability in the Global Economy
- Applying for USDOL Grants
- Rural Housing & USDA
- Rural Colleges and Athletics

Finally, a dedicated section of the website has been rapidly expanding to provide ongoing resources such as legislative initiatives, funding announcements, and a repository of webinars and media for this vital sector of educational institutions.



# Advocacy Evolution (continued)

## Legislative Advocacy Accomplishments

From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, the association's federal advocacy, with the support of trustees and CEOs throughout the country, recorded the following legislative victories:

- ✔ **Broadband & Workforce Training Resources from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)** – The marquee legislation from the second half of 2021 was the bipartisan infrastructure law. The proposal included several provisions which will benefit community colleges and their students, including:
  - **\$65 billion in broadband deployment infrastructure**
    - These funds will flow to local communities mostly through their state governments.
  - **Workforce Training Investments**
    - There are several provisions across the bill aimed at providing workforce training funds for programs in the law such as public transit, energy, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.
- ✔ **Short-Term Pell** – We were able to get enough bipartisan support in the House to include a provision authorizing the extension of Pell Grant eligibility to workforce programs as short as 150 clock hours into the COMPETES Act, the House's innovation and global competition proposal. The bill is now going through the Conference process between the House and Senate to work out differences. Our team continues to push for the inclusion of short-term Pell in the final package.

- ✔ **College Transparency Act** – We were able to get enough bipartisan support in a provision in the House Competes Act authorizing a privacy-protected system of data collection on student outcomes based on the College Transparency Act, an item included in ACCT's legislative agenda. The bill is also under consideration as part of the Conference process between the House and Senate mentioned above but is less likely to make the final package.
- ✔ **Increases in FY2022 Funding for Higher Education and Labor Programs** – The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 included the following:
  - **Pell Grants** - The Pell Grant maximum award increased to \$6895 (\$400 higher than in FY21).
  - **Campus Aid** – The Federal Work Study (FWS) program received a \$20 million increase and Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants (SEOG) received a \$15 million increase.
  - **Adult Basic Education** – Adult Education state grants increased by \$16 million.
  - **Institutional Aid** – The following institutional aid programs were increased by a total of \$78.5 million: Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP); Strengthening Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs);

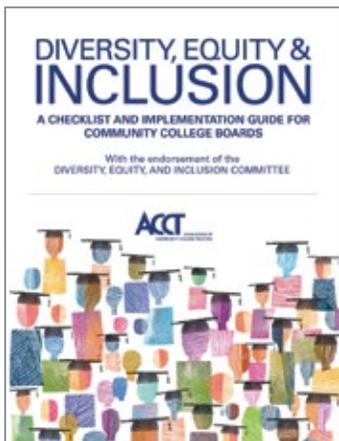
Strengthening Alaska Native & Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions; Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Strengthening Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), Strengthening Asian American & Native Pacific Islander-serving Institutions; Strengthening Native American-serving Nontribal Institutions; Aid for Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs).

- **Campus Aid, Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCCTG), Basic Needs Grants, and Postsecondary Student Success Grants** – Each received at least \$5 million increases for programs relevant to community colleges.

ACCT was also successful in promoting several of our priorities to gain legislative momentum and continue as part of the higher education policy discussion in Washington. Those include:

- **Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)**
- **America's College Promise**
- **Community College Workforce Training**
- **Elimination of Taxation on Pell Grant funds**
- **Pell Grants for DREAMers**
- **Expansion of Second Chance Pell**

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is tied directly to the community college mission of providing equal access to high-quality higher education for all people, regardless of socioeconomic standing or any other defining characteristic. While community colleges are open to all students who want to enroll, all students do not enroll, persist or complete at the same rates.

In addition to dedicating the 2021 ACCT Leadership Congress to diversity, equity and inclusion, the ACCT Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has been tracking colleges' progress toward improving these areas at community colleges throughout the country. College boards in California, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington expanded their mission, vision or values statements to explicitly commit to improving diversity, equity, and inclusion on their campuses, using the ACCT *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Checklist and Implementation Guide for Community College Boards*. Institutions in California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Nebraska, Oregon, Texas, and Washington included commitments to these interests within new strategic plans, and various other inclusion and nondiscrimination policies were adopted at colleges throughout these states as well as in Kansas, Massachusetts, and South Carolina.

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (continued)

Last year, ACCT also proudly introduced a new workshop model dedicated to helping boards develop policies that can support the college's goals, policies, and practices in promoting equitable opportunities. These workshops use a blend of case studies, exercises, policy examples, policy review, and facilitated discussions to help governing boards address the needs of all members of the community including students, staff, faculty, administrators, and their constituents. Expert facilitators include Helen Benjamin, Ph.D., former chancellor of Contra Costa Community College District in California, and Charlene Dukes, Ed.D., president emerita of Prince George's Community College in Maryland.

## AVAILABLE WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



**HELEN BENJAMIN, Ph.D.**  
Former Chancellor  
Contra Costa Community College District



**CHARLENE DUKES, Ed.D.**  
President Emerita  
Prince George's Community College



**KEITH CURRY, E.D.**  
President/CEO  
Compton College and  
Compton Community  
College District



**EDUARDO MARTÍ, Ph.D.**  
President Emerita  
Former President  
Queensboro Community College &  
Corning Community College, SUNY &  
Tompkins Cortland Community College, SUNY

Contact Colleen Allen, Director, Retreat and Evaluation Services at [callen@acct.org](mailto:callen@acct.org) or 202-558-8682 to schedule a workshop or to learn more about these and other board education opportunities.

# Cultivating Forward- Thinking Leaders

# Cultivating Forward-Thinking Leaders

For 50 years, ACCT has remained the only national not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing services to community college governing boards exclusively. “Our executive searches prioritize finding the most diverse array of highly qualified candidates to lead community colleges today and into the future,” Vice President for Search Services Julie Golder said. ACCT Searches have placed over 750 community college CEOs, ranging from campus presidents to state system presidents.

“We welcome inquiries from any colleges undergoing leadership changes,” Golder said. “We’re here to help. Our only goal is to fortify colleges with visionary leaders tailored to their current and future needs.”

ACCT Searches continued to provide exemplary search support and assistance to our member institutions through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, working with institutions throughout 2021 and 2022 to provide services in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format to accommodate the state and college preferences or restrictions.

Last fiscal year, ACCT Searches supported over 40 community and technical college searches. Fiscal year 2022 chancellor/ president, provost, and vice president/vice chancellor searches include:

- Arapahoe Community College, Colorado
- Bellingham Technical College, Washington
- Brazosport College, Texas
- Chippewa Valley Technical College, Wisconsin
- Crowder College, Missouri
- Delta College, Michigan
- Dutchess Community College, State University of New York
- Eastern Iowa Community Colleges
- Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College
- Essex County College, New Jersey
- Frank Philip College, Texas
- Gogebic Community College, Michigan
- Howard Community College, Maryland

- Isothermal Community College, North Carolina
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- Lane Community College, Oregon
- Laredo College, Texas
- Louisiana Delta Community College, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- Maysville Community and Technical College, Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- New Mexico Junior College
- Northland Pioneer College, Arizona
- NorthWest Arkansas Community College
- Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- Ocean County College, New Jersey
- Peninsula College, Washington
- Rio Hondo College, California
- Rio Salado College, Maricopa Community Colleges, Arizona
- Riverside Community College District, California
- Saint Paul College, Minnesota
- Santa Ana College, Rancho Santiago Community College
- South Louisiana Community College, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- South Texas College
- South Mountain Community College, Maricopa Community Colleges, Arizona
- Southeast New Mexico College
- SUNY Ulster, New York
- York Technical College, South Carolina

# Working Together as One



## Board Retreat, Board Self-Assessment, CEO Evaluation and Other Services

ACCT provides important board development services to member colleges and institutions. During the past fiscal year, ACCT provided services to 48 member colleges, including 35 in-person board retreats, conducted 16 board self-assessments, 16 CEO evaluations, one policy review, two trustee self-assessments, and provided technical assistance to two colleges. As the pandemic continued to impact in-person gatherings, ACCT conducted ten virtual trainings. We also facilitated a special project for one college assisting with its shared governance model and is also assisting another college with its internal and external governance practices. Finally, ACCT participated in two state association trainings. One of these statewide trainings was dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion—a new focused offering from the association.

As a gesture of appreciation to members, President Lee has determined to give away 25 complimentary board retreats or workshops to members for each of the next three fiscal years. “Board services of this kind are vitally important to maintaining the health of a community college board and, therefore, the health of the institution they govern,” Lee said. A random drawing of members will be held in the coming fall.

To learn more about how services can help your college leadership, visit [www.acct.org/services](http://www.acct.org/services).

# Staff

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

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### JEE HANG LEE

President and CEO

### THOMAS WRIGHT

Chief Financial Officer

### JULIE GOLDER

Vice President, Search Services

### ROBIN MATROSS HELMS

Vice President, Membership & Educational Services

### CARRIE WARICK-SMITH

Vice President, Public Policy

### KAREN LOMAX

Executive Coordinator to the President and Board of Directors

## STAFF

---

### COLLEEN ALLEN

Director, Retreats and Evaluation Services

### ADOULA BIAR

Membership Services Associate

### DAVID CONNER

Director, Strategic Communications

### ROSARIO DURÁN

Senior Government Relations Associate

### STEVE JURCH

Director, Center for Policy and Practice

### KORY KINMAN

Board Search Specialist

### ANDREW LAINE

Association Counsel

### FRANKLIN MASON

Accounting Financial Analyst

### JOSÉ N. MIRANDA

Senior Government Relations Associate

### MAUREEN NDOTO

Board Services Associate

### AJAH PERRY

Board & Operations Associate

### SEAN ROBINS

Policy Associate

### CHRISTINA SIMONS

Director, Educational Events

### KALI WOODS

Digital Media & Communications Specialist

# Board of Directors

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

---

### JAMES COOKSEY

Chair  
Moberly Area Community College, MO

### ROSE BENAVIDEZ

Chair-Elect  
South Texas College, TX

### JAY NARDINI

Vice Chair  
Hawkeye Community College, IA

### TIM HARDY

Secretary-Treasurer  
Louisiana Community and Technical College System, LA

### DAVID MATHIS

Immediate Past Chair  
Mohawk Valley Community College, NY

## REGIONAL CHAIRS

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### ARTURO REYES

Central Regional Chair  
Mott Community College, MI

### SHEETAL RANJAN

Northeast Regional Chair  
Bergen Community College, NJ

### GILBERT WONG

Pacific Regional Chair  
Foothill-De Anza Community College, CA

### TAMELA CULLENS

Southern Regional Chair  
South Florida State College, FL

### DAN MIMS

Western Regional Chair  
San Jacinto College, TX

## BOARD MEMBERS

---

### STEVEN ANDERSON

Northeast Community College, NE

### YVONNE BARNES

Trident Technical College, SC

### JUDY CHEN HAGGERTY

Mt. San Antonio College, CA

### ANTHONY COLÓN

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair  
Mohawk Valley Community College, NY

### EDWIN DALRYMPLE

Central Piedmont Community College, NC

### CAROL DEL CARLO

Nevada System of Higher Education NV

### MAUREEN DUNNE

College of DuPage, IL

### RICHARD FUKUTAKI

Bellevue College, WA

### AMANDA HOWLAND

College of Lake County, IL

### JOHN LUKAS

Lakeshore Technical College, WI

### Vivian Malauulu

Long Beach City College, CA

### DIANE NORIEGA

Mt. Hood Community College, OR

### JERMAINE REED

Metropolitan Community College, MO

### OSCAR VALLADARES

Rio Hondo College, CA

### PRETTA VANDIBLE STALLWORTH

Houston Community College System, TX



# Building Partnerships

# ACCT would like to thank our members, sponsors, and donors for their generous support.

## 515 Member Community College Boards

### Student Success Partners

American Association of Community Colleges  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
American Public Health Services Association  
Ascend at the Aspen Institute  
Association of Colleges (UK)  
Bellwether College Consortium  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
CCPI-STEM  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
ECMC Foundation  
Education Strategy Group  
Excelencia in Education  
Health Resources and Services Association  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy  
Higher Learning Advocates  
Hope Center for College, Community and Justice at Temple University  
The JED Foundation  
The Kresge Foundation  
Lumina Foundation  
National Asian Pacific Islander Council  
National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship  
National Community Action Partnership  
National College Attainment Network  
National Junior College Athletic Association  
Phi Theta Kappa  
Rural Community College Alliance  
Seattle Jobs Initiative  
State Higher Education Executive Officers

United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services

United States Department of Education

United States Department of Education, Office of Educational Technology

United States Department of Labor, ETA Division of Strategic Investments

University of Maryland Community College Leadership Program

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