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## Lessons From the Road

DEAR ACCT MEMBERS,

IF CONTRAILS DRAWN BY AIRPLANES remained in the sky for a year, then the flights I've taken from college to college over the past 12 months would create a vast and dense web that would cover most of the United States. It's been a thrilling experience to meet so many of you on your own campuses, to tour your campuses, to meet students and others who make up your communities. It's what the CEO of a national association should do, and it is my privilege to do it.

I have worked for ACCT since 2006 — not a short amount of time — and over those years, I grew intimately familiar with our membership and our members' needs, particularly advocacy-related needs, and as the head of the association's federal advocacy services, I've always done my best to represent you.

I am happy to be able to say that in visiting so many campuses in such a short amount of time, I am convinced that ACCT's leadership and staff truly do understand our members' needs and wants, and every one of our always-expanding services are tailor made to meet them. Organizations don't get a lot more niche than one that represents community college boards, and that focus always has been and always will be one of our greatest strengths.

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In this issue of *Trustee Quarterly*, you'll find highlights of our current and recent advocacy efforts, including an overview of February's National Legislative Summit. The 2023 NLS had the highest participation we've hosted since 2009, and in addition to speakers from the

White House and Department of Education, we hosted the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor for the first time, demonstrating the reach of ACCT's student success, rural-focused and other initiatives. You'll also read about this year's extraordinary Community College Month campaign, this year recognized by former First Lady Michelle Obama, the U.S. Department of State and others. Our advocacy reach — yours and ours, in tandem — continues to expand appreciation and support for community colleges.

Also in this issue, ACCT Chair Rose Benavidez and I discuss the "trust" in community college trusteeship — that is, we talk about the true meaning of the term *fiduciary* (hint: it's doesn't just mean "financial"), along with the great responsibility of board members to fulfill their duties of care, loyalty, and obedience ethically and faithfully. We also detail standards of good practice for trustee boards and talk through some common challenges experienced by boards or individual board members when carrying out these responsibilities. I encourage you not only to read this article, but to share and discuss it with your fellow board members. ACCT is here to help you understand how to be the best board member possible, and fiduciary responsibilities are the foundation of board service.

If I haven't seen you on your campus yet, then I hope to see you this October at the 2023 ACCT Leadership Congress in Las Vegas and on our new ACCT Connect social learning platform. Wherever we run into one another, make sure to say hi and let me know what we can do for you.

**JEE HANG LEE**  
ACCT President and CEO