

Former ACCT President & CEO Appointed to Federal Advisory Position

J. Noah Brown, who retired as ACCT's longest-serving president and CEO in October, has been appointed by President Joe Biden to serve as senior advisor to the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Brown's new position became effective November 1, 2021.



ACCT Membership Town Halls

President and CEO Jee Hang Lee wants to hear from you. Since taking the helm this November, Lee has convened two virtual town hall meetings to hear from members about your interests and your needs. So far, hundreds have shown up to make their voices heard. If you haven't yet participated in an ACCT Town Hall, please keep your eyes peeled for announcements of future town hall meetings and be sure to register. To learn more, visit www.ACCT.org.



NEWS



Annual ACCT Association Awards

ACCT announced the recipients of its annual Association Awards for community college trustees, equity programs, chief executive officers, faculty members, and professional board staff members during the ACCT Awards Gala on Friday, October 15, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, California. Awardees were announced live during the gala on ACCT's Twitter (@CCTrustees). For photos and videos of the Association and Regional Awards, visit www.acct.org/awards.



2021 M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award

George Little

Sandhills Community College,
North Carolina



2021 Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Award

Monty E. Sullivan

Louisiana Community &
Technical College System



2021 Charles Kennedy Equity Award
Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon



2021 William H. Meardy Faculty Member Award

Kenneth Walz

Madison Area Technical College, Wisconsin



2021 ACCT Professional Board Staff Member Award

Sara Landreneau Kleinpeter

Louisiana Community &
Technical College System

For more information about the ACCT Awards program, contact awards@acct.org.

ACCT and ESG Launch Noncredit and Credit Alignment Lab

Higher ed organizations receive \$1.2 million grant to support new or improved pathways between non-credit and credit programs at community colleges.

ACCT and Education Strategy Group (ESG) have partnered to launch the Noncredit and Credit Alignment Lab (NCAL), a two-year initiative to support 10 community college governance units' efforts to develop new or improved pathways between non-credit and credit programs. The project is supported by a \$1.2 million grant from ECMC Foundation.

Non-credit programming can be a steppingstone to further education and training that leads to higher earnings and greater career sustainability. Unfortunately, our systems are designed to discourage rather than facilitate pathways across non-credit and credit programs, according to ESG research. The result is that many students in non-credit programs are left without pathways to additional learning, and colleges fail to take advantage of a significant population of engaged learners ready to enroll in credit-bearing programs. To achieve greater equity and develop more resilient and responsive systems following a global pandemic, community colleges must bridge the divide between non-credit and credit programs.

"Community colleges offer both credit and noncredit programs to support the needs of their students," said ACCT President and CEO Jee Hang Lee. "Aligning these programs is critical for both students and for colleges' institutional goals. We are grateful that ECMC Foundation understands the importance of this endeavor."

"To position themselves as drivers of economic recovery and mobility, community colleges need to scale programs in fields where well-paying jobs are growing, and they need to make it easier for learners to gain the skills and credentials needed for success," said ESG President and CEO Matt Gandal. "Breaking down the historic barriers that have separated non-credit and credit-bearing programs is a critical step. ESG is pleased to join ACCT in building on

the work we began last year with the publication of *A More Unified Community College*, which offered strategies and resources for institutions to begin to align their non-credit and credit programs."

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 solutions. By the end of the initiative, each participating college will develop new pathways between non-credit and credit functions or improve current ones to 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 more 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 — because 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, go to www.acct.org/page/noncredit-and-credit-alignment-lab-0.

2021 M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award Winner



George Little

Sandhills Community College, North Carolina

What does the award mean to you?

It was an honor to see Sandhills Community College and its board in the national spotlight. The M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award gave credit where credit was due to our community as a whole.

What advice would you offer to other community college trustees?

My recommendation to any trustee is the more you give, the greater you receive. In everything you do, do so with a genuine heart.

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.*

2022 Governance Leadership Institutes

Since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, ACCT has convened virtual Governance Leadership Institutes (GLIs) to make sure that all board members had opportunities to learn governance best practices — but there’s no substitute for face-to-face education and networking. That’s why our 2022 GLIs will be taking place in person.

The **Strengthening the Leadership Team of the Board GLI**, hosted by the Community College of Philadelphia, will be held from March 23 – March 25 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This event is designed to bring together multiple trustees and their college’s chief executive officer/president/chancellor to collectively gain a greater grasp on tough governance challenges and to learn how to support one another in the best of times and the most trying of times.

The **ACCT Governance Leadership Institute for New Trustees** will be held at the Darcy Hotel in Washington, D.C., this August 4 – 6. This event is a must-attend for all new board members and their presidents, as it serves as a comprehensive introduction to community college governance, with opportunities to build a troubleshooting network of peers from throughout the country and get answers from experts.

Visit ACCTGLI.org for more information and to register. If you have any questions, contact ACCT Director of Educational Events Christina Simons at csimons@acct.org.

2022 ACCT Leadership Congress

Start spreading the news! We’ll be meeting in New York, New York, for the 53rd Annual ACCT Leadership Congress from October 26 – 29. Visit Congress.ACCT.org to register, submit presentation proposals, view the preliminary schedule, and learn about sponsorship opportunities. If you have any questions about the Congress, contact us at congress@acct.org.

