



Through ACCT Connect, you can broadcast successes from your college, and you can communicate one on one with your peers or our staff at any time from anywhere. We're here, there, and everywhere you need us. Just let us know what you need, and we'll be there for you.

## Here, There, and Everywhere

DEAR ACCT MEMBERS,

ACCT IS THE VOICE OF COMMUNITY college leaders — here in Washington, on the ground in your state and local community, and virtually everywhere these days. We've worked hard to make the association so far reaching, and we're working hard to let you know that we are there for you wherever you need us.

As ACCT's public policy lead for 15 years, I traveled a fair amount, but I spent most of my time here in the nation's capital to advance the interests of our members. Since taking the reins as president and CEO last year, I've spent more time traveling to community college campuses than I have in the ACCT offices. I've always felt that the greatest way for the association to maintain a deep understanding of our members' needs is to be on the ground where our members are. Doing so has been illuminating, and it has informed the association's work over the past couple of years and what we plan to do going forward.

Here's a bit of trivia: ACCT was technically founded in 1972, which makes the association 51 years old — but we had our 50th ACCT Leadership Congress back in 2019. How is that possible? Community college trustees from throughout the country began convening back in 1969, and the association grew from the success of those gatherings. ACCT's events are older than the association itself, and for many members, the ACCT Leadership Congress and Community College National Legislative Summit are primary benefits of membership. For those who have not attended, it's difficult to convey exactly how valuable participation in these events can be as opportunities to

exchange knowledge and forge relationships. We're grateful to our members who attend these events, whether you do it every year or every few years. This year's ACCT Leadership Congress in Las Vegas has among the highest participation rates on record — so we know face-to-face relationship building is a top need. We are committed to always meeting this need.

At the same time, both needs and opportunities are different today than they were in 1972. No longer are we separated by geography as we once were, and no longer do we have to fly or drive somewhere to meet face to face. As we moved through the historic COVID-19 lockdown, we asked ourselves a key question: How can we bring members together virtually for the same kinds of relationships they forge in person at our events? This year, we've launched the answer to that question: ACCT Connect.

If you belong to an ACCT-member institution, then you have access to ACCT Connect. This platform includes valuable resources about governance and advocacy for community college leaders, but it is also designed to bridge connections among member trustees, college CEOs, professional board staff, and others. Through ACCT Connect, you can broadcast successes from your college, and you can communicate one on one with your peers or our staff at any time from anywhere. We're here, there, and everywhere you need us. Just let us know what you need, and we'll be there for you.

**JEE HANG LEE**  
*ACCT President and CEO*