

NEWS & NOTES



New Statewide ACCT Governance Leadership Institutes

GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTES (GLIs) are the primary way for community college trustees and CEOs to learn how to govern colleges effectively, from the basics to advanced topics. Over the past decade, thousands of trustees and hundreds of CEOs have benefited from the educational and team-building provided by ACCT GLIs.

Since the fall of 2022, ACCT has designed and delivered state-based GLIs in Nebraska, New Jersey, Illinois, Wyoming, and Michigan. A Pacific Islands GLI is scheduled for the end of February, and planning is underway for a number of additional programs.

As with all GLIs, these institutes offered in-depth overviews of the roles and responsibilities of members of a public governing board and the college administration, the board-CEO relationship, parliamentary procedures, and other governance fundamentals. The statewide GLIs also offer the advantage of gathering college leaders to learn about and explore state laws or

statutes and other specific considerations that affect how they govern their colleges.

“Gathering college leaders from throughout the country to learn about and discuss the roles, responsibilities, and limitations of board governance offers many unique learning opportunities,” says ACCT Vice President for Membership and Educational Services Robin Matross Helms. “State-based governance institutes also offer their own unique opportunities. Both models can be an ideal way to advance any college board’s practical knowledge and all-important peer-to-peer networking. We’re excited to continue to evolve ACCT’s GLIs to best meet the needs of all of our members.”



To inquire about state-based Governance Leadership Institutes, contact rhelms@acct.org.

New LGBTQ+ Caucus Formed

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAUCUS’S CO-FOUNDER, SAMANTHA VAIVE, A TRUSTEE from Lansing Community College in Michigan:

When Manny Santiago from Tacoma Community College approached me about forming an LGBTQ+ caucus at ACCT, I was elated. It reminded me of how I felt about establishing the Under 45 Caucus in 2019. Fortunately, we now have a point of connection at ACCT Connect thanks to the work of ACCT Director of Member Engagement Kielo Savilaakso.

Since the group's inception, the outpouring of support has been truly humbling. We are excited to be creating a space for a community that, until now, hasn't had a dedicated presence within the organization. The group is open to everyone at ACCT who wishes to support the LGBTQ+ community, both within ACCT and on college campuses.

Our initial goal is to have pronouns included on the name badges at events. This small step contributes to a more inclusive environment for all. We will be meeting in person at NLS and Congress. Until then, find us under 'groups' in the ACCT Connect App.

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 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.*

LET THE LAW WORK FOR YOU

Timing is everything when it comes to advocacy, but not everyone has time to pay attention to pending legislation day in and day out.

ACCT's Latest Action in Washington (LAW) Alerts do the work for you.

Since 2008, nearly 1,900 people have signed up to receive ACCT's LAW Alert emails – brief summaries of legislative actions emailed to subscribers as legislation happens, giving community college trustees, presidents, and other leaders and advocates time to contact their representatives and exert influence before it's too late.

Please encourage your fellow trustees, presidents, and colleagues to stay up to date about legislation that affects their community colleges by joining the LAW E-Alert network. To join, simply email publicpolicy@acct.org with "LAW Alert" in the subject of the email.

For more information about ACCT's advocacy services, visit www.acct.org/advocacy.

ACCT Association Awards Winners

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 at the ACCT Leadership Congress convened in October in Las Vegas, Nevada. Awardees were announced live during the gala on ACCT's X, formerly known as Twitter (@CCTrustees). For photos and videos of the Association and Regional Awards, visit www.acct.org/awards.



2023 M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award
Bakari C. Lee, Esq.
Hudson County Community College, N.J.



2023 Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Award
Jo Alice Blondin
Clark State College, Ohio



2023 Charles Kennedy Equity Award
Kern Community College District, Calif.
(Award presented to college board and CEO.)



2023 William H. Meardy Faculty Member Award
Christine Pegoraro-Schull
Northern Virginia Community College, Va.



2023 ACCT Professional Board Staff Member Award
Pamela Payne
El Paso Community College District, Texas



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

2024 M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award Winner



Bakari G. Lee, Esq.
Hudson County Community College, N.J.

What does the award mean to you?

For me, the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award serves as a capstone of 17 years of community college service, and a lifetime of community service lessons instilled in me by my parents who each have built a life of service to their community. My service to Hudson County Community College, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, and ACCT has been extremely rewarding emotionally and professionally. I have learned so much from each organization, gained so many wonderful friends who over the years became like family, and enjoyed so

many experiences that would not have occurred but for this journey, all through service to the community college concept. I am truly grateful to ACCT and my colleagues for this award.

What advice would you offer to other community college trustees?

At all times, remain focused on the mission of providing an institution to students that will enable them to uplift and enhance their lives and the lives of their families. If we as trustees keep students front of mind and remain true to our service to them, we will never go wrong.

YOU could be the next M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award winner! Visit **[ACCT.org/awards](https://www.acct.org/awards)** to learn more about the 2024 awards program or to nominate outstanding board members.



Learn more about the 2023 awards program at [ACCT.org/awards](https://www.acct.org/awards).