

ACCT 2023 M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award Nomination of

██████████ Board Vice Chair
██████████

Has the trustee served as an officer of the college's board of trustees?

██████████ joined the ██████████ Board of Trustees in May 2006. He served as Secretary/Treasurer from 2009 through January 2012, when he was elected the Board's Vice Chair, a position he maintains to this day.

During his tenure as an ██████████ Trustee, he has served as Chair of the Finance (2009-23) and Ethics (2006-08) Committees, and as a member of the Capital Projects Advisory (2015-present), Presidential Search (2018), Middle States (2011), and Technology (2011) Committees. He is the Trustee Liaison to Commencement (2009-present) and to the ██████████ Foundation (2022-present), and was a presenter at the College's 2022 Teaching and Learning Symposium.

Since 2018 Trustee ██████████ has been an active and participating member of the ██████████ President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI) that works to support a culture of care at the College; weave diversity, equity and inclusion guidelines into recruitment and hiring practices, committee screening policies, promotion considerations and succession planning; and create clear and transparent processes for safety, security and incident reporting that are free of intimidation and respectful of confidentiality.

In addition to service on the board of trustees, in what capacity has the trustee participated in community life, i.e. civic clubs, public offices, etc.?

Trustee ██████████ has publicly stated that he believes it is critically important to be involved with the community and to give back without expecting anything in return. Trustee ██████████ credits his dedication to and involvement in community service to his father's example and influence. ██████████ father was a civil rights and community leader who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and who established the Institute for the Development of Black Males.

Upon his father's passing, Trustee ██████████ assumed responsibility for administration of the Institute for the Development of Black Males, enlarging its scope to serve African American and Latino males and females, 11 to 16 years of age, in housing authorities, and community centers throughout New Jersey and the Virgin Islands. He continues in this capacity as the volunteer Program Administrator for the ██████████ Neighborhood House Rites of Passage Program, a 20-week program that provides workshops as well as cultural and educational experiences for this demographic in transitioning to adulthood.

Trustee ██████████ is an active member and past Basileus (President) of the ██████████ Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and a lifetime member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. His work with Sigma Pi Phi includes the creation of the Mu Boule Scholars Program that is responsible for ten college graduates and four current students. He also created Mu Boule's Role Models for Manhood mentorship program that has served more than 350 middle-school African American boys in northern ██████████.

What has the trustee initiated or helped to develop in the area of innovative programs used in two-year postsecondary institutions?

The ██████████ Center for Student Success ██████████ was established by the ██████████ Council of County Colleges ██████████ during Trustee ██████████'s tenure (2011-14) as Chair of that organization. ██████████ is dedicated to assisting ██████████ community college students in completing college, strengthening student services and serving as a resource for innovation and best practices. Since its inception in 2012

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[REDACTED] has played a critical role in promoting the success of promising students by providing expert coaches to assist the State’s community colleges in strengthening student success efforts; hosting statewide convenings featuring community college thought leaders; providing professional development for community college professionals; and supporting partnerships and collaborations among community colleges and other constituents. [REDACTED] has earned funding from several national and state sources, including Kresge Foundation, Prudential Foundation, PSE&G Foundation, State Street Foundation, The Fund for [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Department of Education, and Office of the Secretary of Higher Education of [REDACTED].

Additionally, the Big Idea Project was implemented during Trustee [REDACTED]’s tenure as [REDACTED] Chair. The Big Idea Project utilizes a whole-student approach to education that includes teaching students to think critically, feel deeply, and act confidently, thereby building their confidence and preparation for successful academic and business careers. The program works to combat low student engagement; higher dropout rates; increased skills gaps in business; future student underemployment; low student mental health; and less engaged citizens.

How has the trustee served on technical or special committees serving two-year postsecondary education?

In addition to his work with [REDACTED] Council of County Colleges, Trustee [REDACTED] is an Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Life Member, and has served in several roles on various committees, including as [REDACTED]. As [REDACTED] he created the Student Trustee Advisory Committee that allows students to advise the ACCT Board, and allows the ACCT Board to refer timely issues to students for their input and consideration; established Trustee advisory and constituency groups (trustees from African American, Latino, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native American communities) to report at board meetings; and led the completion of the board’s first strategic plan. He also served as Trustee Committee Advisory Member (2018-present), President/CEO Search Committee Member (2020), Governance and Bylaws Chair (2017-18), ACCT’s Public Policy Chair (2015-16), Membership and Communications Chair (2014-15), Finance and Audit Chair (2013-14), Executive Committee Member (2013-18), Northeast Regional Chair (2011-13), Board Member (2011-18), and Governance and Bylaws Associate Committee Member (2008-11).

How has the trustee been a factor in influencing legislation for two-year postsecondary institutions, and how has the trustee been active in communication and advocacy with state and national leaders?

Prior to serving on [REDACTED] Council of County Colleges’ Executive Committee, Trustee [REDACTED] served as Chair of the [REDACTED] Council of County Colleges’ Legislative Committee, and is one of that organization’s Trustee Ambassadors, a special group that meets regularly with state legislators and congressional delegation members to advocate on behalf of [REDACTED] community colleges. During his tenure as [REDACTED] Chair, [REDACTED]’s 19 community colleges achieved unprecedented successes, including the implementation of the Big Idea Project, the founding of the [REDACTED] Center for Student Success [REDACTED], enhanced capital funding through the passage of the Building Our Future Bond Act, the passage of legislation that preserves the [REDACTED] Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship [REDACTED] program for community college students, and the passage of legislation that provides in-county tuition for undocumented students.

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[REDACTED]

What has the trustee contributed overall to the two-year postsecondary concept and how did this affect the total college program on the community, state or nation?

Trustee [REDACTED]'s experience in community service predates his work as a community college trustee. He has consistently advocated for the inclusion of experiential learning (mentoring programs, internships, apprenticeships, community service opportunities, social and cultural events, work-study programs, and the like) to assist community college students in developing the knowledge, skills and values that make it easier for students to connect their studies to their lives, celebrate their diversity, share cultural backgrounds, and advance socially and economically. Further, Trustee [REDACTED] is personally involved in programs that promote the educational and cultural development of young people throughout [REDACTED] through the Rites of Passage and other programs.

The inclusion of experiential learning is especially important in [REDACTED], which is ranked as the [REDACTED] most diverse state in the United States, and at [REDACTED] College where one-third of the students were born outside of the United States and speak 29 different languages. Nearly 58% of [REDACTED] residents speak a language other than English in their homes.

While Trustee [REDACTED] was Chair of [REDACTED] Council of County Colleges two programs instrumental to incorporating experiential learning programs in all the State's community colleges were established: the Big Idea Project, that utilized a whole student approach to education; and [REDACTED] Center for Student Success, that assists the state's community colleges in improving student outcomes, strengthening student services, and serving as a resource for innovation and best practices. The robust number of experiential learning programs at [REDACTED] College earned the College the distinction of being ranked in the top 5% of 2,200 U.S. higher education institutions by the Equality of Opportunity Project.

How has the trustee provided leadership in helping to solve challenges to two-year postsecondary education?

Trustee [REDACTED] is a proponent of community colleges being engines of upward economic mobility in the United States and has worked to provide for students completing their community college studies. Completing an associate degree is associated with earning \$150 a week more (or \$7,800/year more) than achieving only a high school diploma. However, fewer than 40% of community college students earn a certificate or degree within six years of enrollment. Community college students list financial constraints as the biggest challenge to their academic persistence and degree or certificate completion.

As Chair of [REDACTED] Council of County Colleges and as a [REDACTED] Trustee Ambassador, Trustee [REDACTED] helped ease the financial burden of [REDACTED]'s community college students by advocating for the passage of the preservation of the [REDACTED] Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship [REDACTED] program (that provides the State's highest achieving students with free tuition at their home county college), and the passage of legislation that provides in-county tuition for undocumented students. Additionally, during his tenure as [REDACTED] Chair, the Building Our Future Bond Act was approved as legislation. This legislation capitalized on the 2012-13 historic lows in the bond market and authorized the issuance of \$750,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance higher education capital projects for increasing academic capacity. It was also during Trustee [REDACTED]'s tenure as [REDACTED] Chair, that legislation was passed to provide in-county tuition for undocumented students.

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[REDACTED]

How has the trustee been active in developing, organizing, or supporting state two-year postsecondary associations, and what kind of leadership has the trustee played in state, regional or national associations?

In 2011, Trustee [REDACTED] was elected 2011-12 [REDACTED] of ACCT. Prior to that election, he served as an Associate Member of ACCT Governance & Bylaws Committee, was appointed to the 2011 [REDACTED] Region Awards Committee, and elected to the 2010 [REDACTED] Region Nominating Committee before being nominated for a [REDACTED] Region Director seat. In 2013, Trustee [REDACTED] was elected [REDACTED] of ACCT at the Annual Leadership Council in Seattle. In 2015, he was named [REDACTED], and served as the 2016-2017 [REDACTED].

In 2011, Trustee [REDACTED] was also elected Chair of the [REDACTED] Council of County Colleges [REDACTED], the independent, trustee-headed, state association that represents [REDACTED]'s nineteen community colleges. [REDACTED] joins the leadership of trustees and presidents, and acts as the voice of the community college sector before the state legislature and other branches of government. During his three-year tenure, Trustee [REDACTED] engaged in a listening tour and met with every [REDACTED] community college president and board chair to learn how [REDACTED] could better serve them. [REDACTED] *Community College conferred upon him an honorary Associate of Arts degree in recognition of his efforts on behalf of community colleges.* Trustee [REDACTED] will receive the [REDACTED] Council of County Colleges' 2023 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Community College Trustee Leadership Award on June 12, 2023.

Has the trustee given presentations or published articles on two-year postsecondary education?

Trustee [REDACTED] appeared on the New York-New Jersey PBS program, "One on One with Steve Aduato," in 2014 and spoke about the critical role community colleges play in serving as engines of economic growth and empowerment.

During interviews over the years, he has promoted community colleges as "one-of-a-kind institutions committed to open-access, high-quality higher education for all Americans," and has underscored that message in the keynote addresses he delivered at [REDACTED] county college commencement ceremonies, including [REDACTED] Community College (2017), [REDACTED] Community College (2016), and [REDACTED] Community College (2013).

Trustee [REDACTED] was the keynote speaker at [REDACTED] College's Board Retreat (2015) and [REDACTED] Community College's Black History Month Celebration (2017). He served as moderator of the Affordable Housing Panel at the 2021 [REDACTED] Summit.

Trustee [REDACTED] was a speaker at the [REDACTED] Community College's Convocation (2011), Commencement (2012), and Kente Graduation ceremony (2020), and a lecturer in the 2021 [REDACTED] Lecture Series. He made presentations at ACCT Leadership Congress sessions on the [REDACTED] apprenticeship program (2019), and [REDACTED] award-winning [REDACTED] Scholars program and [REDACTED]'s affiliations with and programs for justice-involved students (2022).

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[REDACTED]

Narrative Summary:

[REDACTED] has worked diligently throughout his life, advocating for accessible, high-quality higher education for all Americans, particularly those in African American, Latino and immigrant communities.

Since being appointed to the [REDACTED] Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees in 2006, he has rightfully earned the respect of colleagues throughout the nation, having promoted the vital role of community colleges as engines of upward economic mobility and cultural enrichment.

Over the years, he also served as Chair of the [REDACTED] of County Colleges, and in each Executive Committee office (Chair-elect, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer and Immediate Past Chair), National Regional Chair, and National Chair of the Association of Community College Trustees, playing an influential role in the establishment of student success programs, advocating for increased funding and tuition stabilization, and working to ensure equal educational opportunities for all.