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Something Everyone Can Learn From

DEAR ACCT MEMBERS,

EVERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE is a volunteer leader who dedicates their time and talents to meeting the educational needs of their community. Beyond this, there is no “typical community college trustee.” Board members represent the full diversity of their communities, from demographics to professional backgrounds, and all have different strengths and different interests.

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This issue of *Trustee Quarterly* represents the full array of ACCT's service to our members — something everyone can learn from. On the cover are leaders from three federal agencies, the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Energy, and Labor, who all took time to speak with the record number of 2024 Community College National Legislative Summit participants. The NLS is our cornerstone advocacy event, a high-profile gathering of leaders from inside the Beltway and across this great nation. Read more about this year's Summit on page 14.

In response to requests from members, we've asked our longtime board retreat consultant Dr. Pamila Fisher to discuss one of the most complex aspects of boardmanship — when a thoughtful and well-intended board member inadvertently encumbers the board's ability to operate effectively (page 22). On page 30, Dr. Debra Volzer discusses a new partnership designed to revitalize the U.S. manufacturing industry through community colleges.

And because the heart of our colleges is our students, this issue includes articles about our initiative to support student parents through on-campus childcare (page 7), nationwide

efforts to improve Black learner excellence (page 26) and access to mental healthcare (page 37), and an interview with Georgetown University student and Oakland Community College alumna Tala Alahmar (page 34), who credits her community college education for her success — and misses the community she found at OCC.

This is only a preview of some of the information in this packed issue of *Trustee Quarterly*. For even more learnings, plus opportunities to speak directly to your peers, I hope you'll join us in Seattle this October for the ACCT Leadership Congress, where we'll talk about how community colleges can serve as catalysts for innovation, and you'll have the opportunity to choose from over 100 sessions presented by nationally renowned experts and your peer community college leaders. I hope you'll take this opportunity to keep learning, and I look forward to seeing you there.

JEE HANG LEE
ACCT President and CEO