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Advocacy and Education That Empower Trustees To Excel

DEAR ACCT MEMBERS,

THE ACCT BOARD OF DIRECTORS convened in July to update priorities that will steer the association over the coming three years. As any trustee might be able to imagine, some discussions were broad, some were deep, some addressed current events such as AI and some were more foundational. In the end, it was clear that the association's primary reasons for being—community college advocacy and trustee education—are what it's all about.

Within each of these two priorities, the board has developed a plan to focus development on three areas: thought leadership, relationships, and communication. I encourage you to read the specifics on page 12 and to let us know how we can best serve you in these areas.

In service to these priorities, we are excited to introduce ACCT Excel—a new way to learn, to grow, and to be recognized. Through this program, trustees can earn badges that highlight essential skills and knowledge. Badges live on ACCT Connect, your hub for training and resources. Member trustees can earn these badges online or by participating in in-person events and activities—making becoming a better board member more accessible than ever.

Once a trustee earns a badge, they can showcase it on LinkedIn or beyond

as a way to share their commitment to effective governance with their peers, their institution, and their community. The badges demonstrate that trustees have taken active measures to learn and grow as a fiduciary of their institution.

Five categories of badges recognize learning across the fundamentals of trusteeship, governance best practices, legal and compliance essentials, today's key issues, and additional leadership opportunities. Some elements are required, while others are elective—just like your college, Excel balances structure with choice, empowering members to shape their own learning journeys. Read more about ACCT Excel in Robin Matross Helms's Connect column on page 10.

In addition to reading through this magazine, I encourage all members to visit ACCT Connect by going to Connect.ACCT.org on your personal computer or notepad to take advantage of in-depth educational courses on advocacy, governance, and data-informed decision making.

In the meantime, be on the lookout for ACCT Board members, staff, and me at the ACCT Leadership Congress and let us know what we can do for you.

JEE HANG LEE

ACCT President and CEO