

# Community College

2026

FEBRUARY 8-11

# NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

SPONSORED BY



IN COLLABORATION WITH



AT THE

**Marriott  
Marquis**

WASHINGTON, DC



TABLE OF

# CONTENTS

---

Summit at a Glance	2
Helpful Information	4
Featured Speakers	6
Schedule of Events	8
ACCT Board of Directors	30
AACC Board of Directors	32
Members of Congress with Community College Backgrounds	34
Map of Capitol Hill	38



Download the ACCT app from  
the Apple or Google Play store



Conference Hotel WiFi Code:  
NLS2026

Tweet along with us  
@CCTrustees #NLS2026

# Summit at a Glance

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8

All meetings take place at the Marriott Marquis Hotel unless otherwise noted.

Meeting times and sessions are subject to change.

\*Tickets or Package Required

\*\*Advance Registration Required

\*\*\*Please check the ACCT NLS app for the location.

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
**ACCT Board of Directors Meeting**

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM  
**Registration**

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
**New Trustee Academy\*\***

11:30 AM – 4:00 PM  
**Advocacy Leadership Academy\*\***

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
**CCAIE Meeting**

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM  
**AACC/ACCT Executive  
Committees Meeting**

(invitation only)

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM  
**State, Province, and Territory  
Coordinators Network Meeting**

3:30 PM – 6:00 PM  
**ACCT Regional Nominating  
Committees Meeting**

(invitation only)

## MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

7:00 AM – 2:30 PM  
**Registration**

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM  
**General Sessions**

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM  
**Community College  
Priorities Session**

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
**Roundtable Seminar for  
Community College Lawyers**

12:30 PM – 2:15 PM  
**General Session Luncheon\***

2:30 PM – 5:00 PM  
**Student Trustee Advisory  
Committee Meeting and  
Student Advocacy Workshop**

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**ACCT Advisory Committee of  
Presidents Meeting**

(invitation only)

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**Policy Sessions**

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

**ACCT Constituency  
Group Meetings**

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

**Search Services: Best Practices  
and Services Offered**

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**Rural on the Rocks and  
State Receptions**

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

**National Capital Reception**

**TUESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 10**

7:00 AM – 10:00 AM

**Registration**

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

**State Breakfast Meetings**

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

**General Session**

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

**Corporate Council Roundtable  
Meeting (invitation only)**

MORNING + AFTERNOON

**Visits to House, Senate, and  
Executive Branch Offices**

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

**Community College  
Congressional Forum\*\*\***

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Capital Awards Banquet\***

**WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 11**

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

**General Session Breakfast\***

Morning + Afternoon

**Visits to House, Senate, and  
Executive Branch Offices**

# Helpful Information

---

## TICKETS FOR MEALS

Tickets are required for the General Session Luncheon (Monday), Capital Awards and Entertainment Banquet (Tuesday), and the General Session Breakfast (Wednesday).

If you have not purchased tickets in advance and wish to attend, you may purchase tickets at the Summit Registration Desk. If you have purchased a registration package, your badge will have a stamp in lieu of separate paper tickets.

## BADGES

During the sessions, please wear your badge as a courtesy to fellow registrants and as an indication that your registration has been completed. It is not advisable to wear your badge away from the hotel except during Capitol Hill visits.

## EVALUATION FORMS

Evaluation forms can be filled out electronically via the ACCT App. Please fill out the forms on the App before or shortly after the close of the Summit. Please ask any ACCT staff for help if any issues with the evaluation forms arise.

## TRAVELING AROUND DC

A map of Capitol Hill can be found near the back of this program. Maps of the Summit hotel floor plan can be found in the ACCT App.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE SUBWAY (METRO) FROM HOTEL

The Marriott Marquis is in close proximity to two Metro stations:

### Mount Vernon Square / Convention Center

at intersection of M Street and 7th Street, NW (0.3 miles)

### Gallery Place / Chinatown

at intersection of G Street and 9th Street, NW (0.4 miles)





---

### **SUBWAY DIRECTIONS TO THE SENATE SIDE**

From Mount Vernon Square / Convention Center take a Yellow or Green Line train in the direction of Huntington or Branch Avenue, and transfer at Gallery Place / Chinatown to the Red Line.

Once at Gallery Place / Chinatown (either by walking or transferring trains), take the Red Line in the direction of Glenmont to Union Station.

Exit at Union Station via Massachusetts Avenue.

At the top of the escalators, turn toward the rear and you will be facing the Capitol. Go left, and walk around Union Station Circle to First Street, NE.

Proceed south two blocks to the intersection of First and C Streets, NE. The Russell Senate Office Building is on the southwest corner at the intersection.

The Dirksen Senate Office Building is on the southeast corner. The Hart Senate Office Building adjoins the Dirksen Building. (See map inside this program or in the ACCT App).

---

### **SUBWAY DIRECTIONS TO THE HOUSE SIDE**

From Mount Vernon Square / Convention Center take a Green or Yellow Line train in the direction of Huntington or Branch Avenue, and transfer at L'Enfant Plaza to the Orange, Blue, or Silver Line.

From Gallery Place / Chinatown take a Green or Yellow Line train in the direction of Huntington or Branch Avenue, and transfer at L'Enfant Plaza to the Orange, Blue, or Silver Line.

Once at L'Enfant Plaza, take the Orange, Blue, or Silver Line in the direction of New Carrollton or Largo Town Center.

Exit at Capitol South Station.

After you leave the Metro station, keep walking in the direction you exited (up the hill on First Street, SE), one block to Independence Avenue.

The Cannon House Office Building is on the corner of Independence and First Streets, SE.

The Longworth House Office Building is one block west on Independence Avenue. The Rayburn House Office Building is two blocks west. (See map inside this program or in the ACCT App).

---

FEATURED

# SPEAKERS



MONDAY

**FEBRUARY 9**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM



## NICHOLAS KENT

Under Secretary of Education,  
U.S. Department of Education

**NICHOLAS KENT** was sworn in as the 15th Under Secretary of Education on August 4, 2025, following his nomination by President Donald J. Trump and confirmation by the U.S. Senate. A first-generation college graduate with more than two decades of experience in education policy, Kent serves as the nation's top federal official for higher education. In this role, he oversees postsecondary education, career and technical education, adult education, and federal student aid programs, including the \$1.6 trillion federal loan portfolio and the Pell Grant program.

Kent is responsible for advancing the Administration's higher education agenda, including efforts to reduce college costs, simplify student loan repayment, expand workforce training opportunities, and strengthen accountability to ensure postsecondary programs deliver value for students and taxpayers. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Education, Kent served as Deputy Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia, where he led initiatives to improve affordability, expand career pathways, and increase transparency across higher education institutions.





## MANU RAJU

Senior Congressional Correspondent, CNN

### MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

12:30 PM – 2:15 PM

**MANU RAJU** is a senior congressional correspondent at CNN, covering Capitol Hill and campaign politics. Raju is a veteran reporter in Washington, having previously served as a top Capitol Hill correspondent at *Politico* for seven years. Prior to his time at *Politico*, Raju reported for *The Hill* newspaper, *Congressional Quarterly* and *Inside Washington Publishers*. Raju spends most of his time in the halls of the Capitol, where he interviews lawmakers about the major issues of the day. He has a reputation as a reporter who can find out what politicians are privately discussing out of the public's view.

Raju has won multiple journalism awards for his reporting on the major battles consuming Washington and his coverage of campaign politics. In 2012, Raju was part of a team of four reporters who won the White House Correspondents Association's prestigious Merriman Smith Award for Presidential Reporting Under Deadline Pressure for their coverage of the debt ceiling crisis.

SCHEDULE OF

# EVENTS



# SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

## **Meeting: ACCT Board of Directors**

Marquis Salon 8, 9, & 10, Meeting Level 2

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

## **Registration**

Marquis Salon 16 & 17, Meeting Level 2

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## **New Trustee Academy\*\***

Liberty Salon I, J, K, & L, Meeting Level 4

11:30 AM – 4:00 PM

## **Advocacy Leadership Academy\*\***

Liberty Salon M, N, O, & P, Meeting Level 4

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

## **Meeting: CCAE**

Silver Linden, 2nd Floor

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

## **Meeting: AACC/ACCT Executive Committees** (invitation only)

Marquis Salon 14, Meeting Level 2

# SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

## **Meeting: State, Province, and Territory Coordinators**

George Washington University, Meeting Level 1

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

## **Meeting: Under 45 Caucus**

Georgetown University, Meeting Level 1

3:30 PM – 6:00 PM

## **ACCT Regional Nominating Committees Meeting** (invitation only)

Central Regional Nominating Committee

Marquis Salon 12, Meeting Level 2

Northeast Regional Nominating Committee

Marquis Salon 10, Meeting Level 2

Pacific Regional Nominating Committee

Marquis Salon 9, Meeting Level 2

Southern Regional Nominating Committee

Marquis Salon 8, Meeting Level 2

Western Regional Nominating Committee

Marquis Salon 7, Meeting Level 2

# MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

7:00 AM – 2:30 PM

## **Registration**

Marquis Salon 16 & 17, Meeting Level 2

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

## **Coffee Service and Pastries**

Foyer, Meeting Level 2



# MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

## **Opening General Session: Perspectives on the Higher Education Landscape**

Marquis Salon 5 & 6, Meeting Level 2

In the past year, the higher education landscape has seen seismic shifts with the restructuring of the U.S. Department of Education, altered federal funding practices, and the modification of decades-long grant programs, to name a few. With this high volume of activity coming out of the federal government, this panel of experts aims to distill the current state of play in higher education and the ramifications of policy-making on community colleges.

### **CAROL DEL CARLO, Greetings**

Chair, ACCT Board of Directors  
Regent, Nevada System of Higher  
Education, NV

### **WALT TOBIN, Presiding**

Chair, Committee on Public Policy  
and Government Relations, AACC  
President, Orangeburg-Calhoun  
Technical College, SC

### **JARED C. BASS, Speaker**

Senior Vice President for Education,  
Center for American Progress

### **PRESTON COOPER, Speaker**

Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

### **KRISTIN HULQUIST, Speaker**

CEO & Founding Partner, HCM Strategists

### **AMANDA FUCHS MILLER, Speaker**

President, Seventh Street Strategies



Please check the ACCT NLS event app  
for a complete list of featured speakers  
in this session.

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

## **General Morning Session: Fireside Chat**

Marquis Salon 5 & 6, Meeting Level 2

### **PLENARY SPEAKER: NICHOLAS KENT**

*Under Secretary of Education*

Nicholas Kent was sworn in as the 15th Under Secretary of Education on August 4, 2025, following his nomination by President Donald J. Trump and confirmation by the U.S. Senate. A first-generation college graduate with more than two decades of experience in education policy, Kent serves as the nation's top federal official for higher education. In this role, he oversees postsecondary education, career and technical education, adult education, and federal student aid programs, including the \$1.6 trillion federal loan portfolio and the Pell Grant program. Previously, Kent held senior leadership roles in national higher education policy organizations and the private sector. He began his career in education policy working with accrediting agencies and in K–12 education policy.

### **JOHN ENAMAIT, Moderator**

Chair-Elect, AACC Board of Directors

President, Stanly Community College, NC

### **NICHOLAS KENT, Speaker**

Under Secretary of Education

U.S. Department of Education

# MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

## **General Session: Overview of the 2026 Community College Priorities**

Marquis Salon 5 & 6, Meeting Level 2

Concomitant with the National Legislative Summit is the release of the annual federal legislative priorities for community colleges. The priorities overview is an essential session for community college leaders in preparing for advocacy meetings on Capitol Hill.

### **CARRIE WARICK-SMITH, Speaker**

Vice President, Public Policy  
ACCT

### **DAVID BAIME, Speaker**

Senior Vice President, Government Relations  
AACC

### **JONATHAN ELKIN, Speaker**

Director of Government Relations  
ACCT

### **JIM HERMES, Speaker**

Associate Vice President, Government Relations  
AACC

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## **Roundtable Seminar for Community College Lawyers**

Georgetown, Meeting Level 1

This highly interactive seminar will cover the latest legal developments of importance to the ongoing operation of community colleges and their boards. Topics to be covered this year include First Amendment litigation brought by faculty and staff against community colleges, and additional community college litigation vulnerabilities in the areas of artificial intelligence/cybersecurity, employment law, Title IX developments, and student athlete issues. Two hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit shall be available for lawyers who attend. CLE credit has been granted in the past in all states requiring CLE.



11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Meeting: New Jersey Community College Student and Alumni Members** (invitation only)

Marquis 12, Meeting Level 2

12:30 PM – 2:15 PM

**General Luncheon Session\***

Marquis Salon 5 & 6, Meeting Level 2

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MANU RAJU**

*Senior Congressional Correspondent, CNN*

Manu Raju is a veteran reporter in Washington, having previously served as a top Capitol Hill correspondent at *Politico* for seven years. Raju spends most of his time in the halls of the Capitol, where he interviews lawmakers about the major issues of the day. He has interviewed major political figures on national television, including House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senator John McCain.

**DERIONNE P. POLLARD, Greetings**

President and CEO, AACC

**JEE HANG LEE, Greetings**

President and CEO, ACCT

**CAROL DEL CARLO, Presiding**

Chair, ACCT Board of Directors

Regent, Nevada System of Higher Education, NV

**LEIGH GOODSON, Presiding**

Chair, AACC Board of Directors

President, Tulsa Community College, OK

# MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

## **Federal Funding for Community Colleges: Challenges, Opportunities, and Outlook for FY 27**

Liberty Salon M, N, O, & P, Meeting Level 4

Federal funding—for Pell Grants, student aid, institutional aid, competitive grant programs, and dedicated projects—remains an essential source of support for community colleges and the students they serve. After several years of steady, and in some cases significant, increases for key higher education programs, community colleges are now operating in a changed environment shaped by shifting fiscal and political dynamics, as well as disruptions in grant administration at the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies.

In this session, budget and appropriations expert Sarah Abernathy will provide an overview of Fiscal Year 2026 federal funding and the emerging outlook for higher education programs in FY 2027, grounding the conversation in what colleges can realistically expect from Congress in the coming years and identifying opportunities to strengthen support for critical programs. Building on this national funding context, campus leaders will also share firsthand experiences with delayed, disrupted, or canceled Department of Education grants and discuss the ripple effects on institutional planning, staffing, partnerships, and student services.

### **OSCAR VALLADARES, Moderator**

Vice Chair, Board of Directors, ACCT  
Trustee, Rio Hondo College, CA

### **CLARISSA COTA, Speaker**

Vice President, External Relations and Campus Operations  
College of Southern Nevada

### **SARAH ABERNATHY, Speaker**

Executive Director  
Committee for Education Funding

### **MICHAEL MCCARTHY, Speaker**

Executive Vice President – CFO/COO  
Northern Essex Community College, MA

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

### **Meeting: ACCT Advisory Committee of Presidents** (invitation only)

Marquis Salon 7, Meeting Level 2

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

### **Looking Forward to Workforce Pell**

Liberty Salon I, J, & K, Meeting Level 4

Now that negotiated rulemakers have agreed to draft Workforce Pell regulations, the picture has grown (somewhat) clearer as to the actions that community colleges should be undertaking to prepare for the launch of the program on July 1. (Hint: states will play a big role.) This session will cover what is in the regulations as of now, what the next steps are in the process, and what they mean for community colleges who hope to avail themselves of this new opportunity.

#### **SUNEM BEATON-GARCIA, Moderator**

Chair, Committee on Program Initiatives and  
Workforce Training, AACC  
President, Chippewa Valley Technical College, WI

#### **JIM HERMES, Speaker**

Associate Vice President, Government Relations  
American Association of Community Colleges

#### **STEVE VOYTEK, Speaker**

Federal Policy Advisor  
Advance CTE

#### **CAROLINE TRESCHITTA, Speaker**

Senior Government Affairs Manager  
National Skills Coalition

# MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

## **Shifts in Benefits for Community College Students**

Liberty Salon L, Meeting Level 4

Addressing student basic needs has long been a pillar for student success. Funding priorities of the current presidential administration have created tangible shifts in federal benefits programs. This panel discussion centers around federal benefits programs that make it possible for students to begin and complete their community college experience and how these programs have been transformed during this current political climate.

### **TRACY HARTZLER, Moderator**

Chair, Committee on Audit and Finance, AACC  
President, Central New Mexico Community  
College, NM

### **BRYCE MCKIBBEN, Speaker**

Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy  
The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs

### **IRIS PALMER, Speaker**

Director, Community Colleges  
New America

### **CARRIE R. WELTON, Speaker**

Senior Policy Strategist  
Trellis Strategies

2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

## **STUDENT TRUSTEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AND STUDENT ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**

Marquis Salon 9 & 10, Meeting Level 2

This workshop, designed for community college students, will include a presentation from guest speakers featuring community college alumni currently working at the House of Representatives' Chief Administrative Office, who will share information on internship and job opportunities at the House of Representatives. The presentation will be followed up by an interactive training on how student-led advocacy can lead to creating positive change for the community college sector. Student trustees will learn how to utilize research in their advocacy, communicate a clear vision to potential allies, and collaborate on messaging with existing partners.

### **LYNN TINCHER-LADNER, Speaker**

President & CEO

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

### **NICK MOORE, Speaker**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for

Career, Technical, and Adult Education,  
U.S. Department of Education

# MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

## **Search Services: Best Practices and Services Offered**

Marquis Salon 8, Meeting Level 2

Because of the transition taking place in executive leadership, it's critical that your board understands today's rapidly changing leadership landscape. Is your board contemplating a search for a new president? Learn how the board and institution can best prepare for a successful CEO transition. This session will cover best practices in designing an open, equitable, and national search process, how to recruit a highly diverse and competitive candidate pool, and what mistakes boards should avoid.

### **JULIE GOLDER, Moderator**

Vice President of Search Services  
ACCT

### **BARBARA GABA, Speaker**

President  
Atlantic Cape Community College, NJ

### **CHARLENE DUKES, Speaker**

ACCT Consultant

### **LUKE ROBINS, Speaker**

ACCT Consultant

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

**Meeting: African American Trustees**

Georgetown University, Meeting Level 1

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

**Meeting: Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American Trustees**

Gallaudet University, Meeting Level 1

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

**Meeting: Association of Latino Community College Trustees**

George Washington University, Meeting Level 1

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**Rural on the Rocks**

Cherry Blossom, 2nd Floor

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**Reception: Oregon Community College Association**

Mount Vernon Square, Meeting Level 3

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Reception: Michigan Delegation**

Yardbird East Wing Room

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**Reception: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association**

Marquis Salon 14, Meeting Level 2

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

**Reception: North Carolina Community College Trustees**

Monument, Meeting Level 4

# MONDAY FEBRUARY 9

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

## **Meeting: Illinois Community College Trustees Association Board of Representatives**

Marquis Salon 12, Meeting Level 2

4:45 PM – 5:45 PM

## **Meeting: ACCT Constituency Groups**

Georgetown University, Meeting Level 1

This is a joint meeting of the African American Trustees; Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American Trustees; and Association of Latino Community College Trustees.

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

## **National Capital Reception**

Second Level Foyer, 2nd Floor

SPONSORED BY:

**edamerica**  
*Advancing Student Success*





# TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10

7:00 AM – 10:00 AM

## **Registration**

Marquis Salon 16 & 17, Meeting Level 2

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM

## **Breakfast Meeting: Arizona Association of Community College Trustees**

Cherry Blossom, 2nd Floor

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM

## **Breakfast Meeting: New York Community College Trustees**

Mount Vernon, Meeting Level 3

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM

## **Breakfast Meeting: Ohio Delegation**

Union Station, Meeting Level 3

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM

## **Breakfast Meeting: Texas Association of Community College Trustees**

Liberty Salon M, Meeting Level 4

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

## **Breakfast Meeting: Community College League of California**

Liberty Salon L, Meeting Level 4

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

## **Breakfast Meeting: Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges**

Monument, Meeting Level 4

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

## **Breakfast Meeting: New Jersey Delegation**

Silver Linden, 2nd Floor

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

### **Breakfast Meeting: Washington State Delegation**

Chinatown, Meeting Level 3

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

### **General Session**

Marquis Salon 5 & 6, Meeting Level 2

### **PRETTA VANDIBLE STALLWORTH, Presiding**

Chair-Elect, Board of Directors, ACCT

Trustee, Houston City College, TX



**Please check the ACCT NLS event  
app for a complete list of featured  
speakers in this session.**

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

### **Meeting: ACCT Corporate Council Roundtable Meeting** (invitation only)

Marquis Salon 12, Meeting Level 2

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

### **Morning & Afternoon Visits to House, Senate, and Executive Branch Offices**

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

### **Meeting: LGBTQ+ Caucus**

Marquis Salon 13, Meeting Level 2

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### **Meeting: South Carolina Legislative Luncheon** (invitation only)

# TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONGRESSIONAL FORUM

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Please check the ACCT NLS event app for the location.

**JOIN US ON CAPITOL HILL** as we hear from Members of Congress on their higher education priorities and their vision for community colleges. For a list of speakers, please visit the ACCT NLS Event App.

The location for the Community College Congressional Forum is to be determined. However, should the location for the Forum take place in the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC), please follow these directions for the best and most efficient access to the CVC. The CVC is located at the U.S. Capitol and can be reached via subway, taxi, or ride share app. The closest subway station is the Capitol South station.

The public entrance to the CVC requires security checks and metal detectors that can be more restrictive than those located on the House and Senate Office Buildings. Please be mindful of that as you plan your arrival. Alternatively, if you're already in the House or Senate Office Buildings, you can ask the staff of your U.S. Representative or two Senators to escort you to the CVC through the Capitol tunnels. A Capitol Hill staff escort is required for this option and there is still a security check with metal detectors in this route.

Once you have entered the premises, look for one of the appointment desks. You will be asked to present an ID and be given a temporary badge to enter the meeting rooms.



7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

### **Capital Awards Banquet\***

Marquis Salon 5 & 6, Meeting Level 2

### **THE GEORGETOWN PHANTOMS A CAPELLA GROUP**

Entertainment

### **CAROL DEL CARLO, Presiding**

Chair, ACCT Board of Directors

Regent, Nevada System of Higher Education, NV

### **LEIGH GOODSON, Presiding**

Chair, AACC Board of Directors

President, Tulsa Community College, OK



**Please check the ACCT NLS event app for a complete list of featured speakers for the Capital Awards Banquet.**

### **2026 NATIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AWARD**

Presented annually during the National Legislative Summit, this award honors a national leader who has made extraordinary contributions to national public policies and resources that support education, training and post-secondary learning.

# WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

## **General Session Breakfast\***

Marquis Salon 5 & 6, Meeting Level 2



**Please check the ACCT NLS event app for a complete list of featured speakers in this session.**

### **CAROL DEL CARLO, Presiding**

Chair, ACCT Board of Directors  
Regent, Nevada System of Higher  
Education, NV

### **LEIGH GOODSON, Presiding**

Chair, AACC Board of Directors  
President, Tulsa Community College, OK

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

## **Morning & Afternoon Visits to House, Senate, and Executive Branch Offices**



# 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Committee

CHAIR

**CAROL DEL CARLO**

Nevada System of Higher Education, NV

CHAIR-ELECT

**PRETTA VANDIBLE STALLWORTH**

Houston City College, TX

VICE CHAIR

**OSCAR VALLADARES**

Rio Hondo College, CA

SECRETARY-TREASURER

**TIM HARDY**

Louisiana Community and Technical College System, LA

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

**RICH FUKUTAKI**

Bellevue College, WA

## Regional Chairs

CENTRAL REGIONAL CHAIR

**AMANDA HOWLAND**

College of Lake County, IL

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHAIR

**ANTHONY COLÓN**

Mohawk Valley Community College, NY

PACIFIC REGIONAL CHAIR

**NAN GOMEZ-HEITZBERG**

Kern Community College District, CA

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHAIR

**YVONNE BARNES**

Trident Technical College, SC

WESTERN REGIONAL CHAIR

**CAROL SCOTT**

DelMar College, TX



## Members

### **TERRY ATCHLEY**

South Florida State College, FL

### **SHAWN BOLDT**

Highland Community College, IL

### **KATHLEEN BRUINSMA**

Grand Rapids Community College, MI

### **DONALD DANTZLER, JR.**

Madison Area Technical College, WI

### **MANUEL GONZALEZ**

Austin Community College District, TX

### **ANDRA HOFFMAN**

Los Angeles Community College District, CA

### **DEBORAH IKEDA**

State Center Community College District, CA

### **REZA JAFARI**

Chesapeake College, MD

### **H. ALLEN LANGLEY**

Cleveland Community College, NC

### **VIVIAN MALAUULU**

Long Beach City College, CA

### **ROBERT PROCTOR**

Lansing Community College, MI

### **JERMAINE REED**

Metropolitan Community College, MO

### **SHARMILA SWENSON**

Highline College, WA

### **ALLEN K. WILLIAMS**

Monroe Community College, NY

### **PATRICIA WOJCIK**

Northeast Community College, NE

### **OLIVIA ZEPEDA**

Arizona Western College, AZ

# 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Committee

CHAIR

**LEIGH GOODSON, President**

Tulsa Community College, OK

CHAIR-ELECT

**JOHN ENAMAIT, President**

Stanly Community College, NC

PAST CHAIR

**SUNITA “SUNNY” COOKE, President**

MiraCosta College District, CA

CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON AUDIT AND FINANCE

**TRACY HARTZLER, President**

Central New Mexico Community College, NM

CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT

**STEPHANIE FUJII, President**

Arapahoe Community College, CO

CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORS AND MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

**ROWENA TOMANENG, Deputy Chancellor**

California Community Colleges, CA

CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM INITIATIVES AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

**SUNEM BEATON-GARCIA, President**

Chippewa Valley Technical College, WI

CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**WALT TOBIN, President**

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, SC

## Members

**LISA AVERY, President**

Linn-Benton Community College, OR

**DEANNA BURT-NANNA, President**

Monroe Community College, NY

**PAUL CARLSEN, President**

Lakeshore Technical College, WI

**MARCIA CONSTON, President**

Tidewater Community College, VA

**DOREY DIAB, President and CEO**

North Central State College, OH

**BARBARA GABA, President**

Atlantic Cape Community College, NJ

**RONALDO GARCIA, President**

North Hennepin Technical College, MN

**LINDA GARCIA, Executive Director**

Center for Community College Engagement, TX

**IVAN HARRELL, President**

Tacoma Community College, WA

**TRACY HARTZLER, President**

Central New Mexico Community College, NM

**MICHAEL HEINDL, President**

Northwest Mississippi Community College, MS

**LARRY JOHNSON, JR., President**

Bronx Community College, NY

**ANGELA KERSENBROCK, President**

Community College Baccalaureate Association, FL

**DAWN LINDSAY, President**

Anne Arundel Community College, MD

**SUSAN LOONEY, President**

Reading Area Community College, PA

**PAULA PANDO, President**

Reynolds Community College, VA

**CARLOS PEÑALOZA, Chancellor**

Leeward Community College, HI

**DANIEL PHELAN, President**

Jackson College, MI

**PATRICIA SIMS, President**

Drake State Community and Technical College, AL

**WILLIE SMITH, Chancellor**

Baton Rouge Community College, LA

**SHEREE UTASH, President**

WSU Tech, KS

**LYNDA VILLANUEVA, President**

Lee College, TX

**CHARLOTTE WARREN, President**

Lincoln Land Community College, IL

**YOLANDA WILSON, President**

College of Southern Maryland, MD

**MARTA YERA-CRONIN, President**

Delaware County Community College, PA

**LIN ZHOU, President**

Bates Technical College, WA

# MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACKGROUNDS

## Associate of Arts Degree

### **REP. SUZANNE BONAMICI (OR-1)**

Lane Community College, OR

### **REP. SHONTEL BROWN (OH-11)**

Cuyahoga Community College, OH

### **REP. KEN CALVERT (CA-41)**

Chaffey College, CA

### **REP. JUAN CISCOMANI (AZ-6)**

Pima County Community College, AZ

### **REP. HENRY CUELLAR (TX-28)**

Laredo Community College, TX

### **REP. SHARICE DAVIDS (KS-3)**

Johnson County Community College, KS

### **REP. DWIGHT EVANS (PA-3)**

Community College of Philadelphia, PA

### **REP. ADAM GRAY (CA-13)**

Merced College, CA

### **REP. JAHANA HAYES (CT-5)**

Naugatuck Valley Community College, CT

### **REP. TRENT KELLY (MS-1)**

East Central Community College, MS

### **REP. BETTY MCCOLLUM (MN-4)**

Inver Hills Community College, MN

### **REP. KWEISI MFUME (MD-7)**

Community College of Baltimore, MD

### **REP. CORY MILLS (FL-7)**

Florida State College at Jacksonville, FL

### **REP. JIMMY PANETTA (CA-19)**

Monterey Peninsula College, CA

### **REP. JIMMY PATRONIS (FL-1)**

Gulf Coast State College, FL

### **REP. JOHN RUTHERFORD (FL-5)**

Florida State College at Jacksonville, FL

### **REP. DAVID SCHWEIKERT (AZ-1)**

Scottsdale Community College, AZ

### **Associate of Science Degree**

#### **REP. RONNY JACKSON (TX-13)**

South Plains College, TX

#### **SEN. ROGER MARSHALL (KS)**

Butler County Community College, PA

#### **REP. BARRY MOORE (AL-2)**

Enterprise State Community College, AL

#### **SEN. MARKWAYNE MULLIN (OK)**

Oklahoma State University  
Institute of Technology, OK

#### **REP. DONALD NORCROSS (NJ-1)**

Camden Community College, NJ

#### **SEN. JACKY ROSEN (NV)**

Clark County Community College, WA

### **Attended a Community College**

#### **REP. GUS BILIRAKIS (FL-12)**

St. Petersburg College, FL

#### **REP. ELI CRANE (AZ-2)**

Arizona Western College, AZ

#### **REP. MADELEINE DEAN (PA-4)**

Montgomery County Community College, PA

#### **REP. CHUCK EDWARDS (NC-11)**

Blue Ridge Community College, VA

#### **REP. MAXWELL FROST (FL-10)**

Valencia College, FL

#### **REP. JIMMY GOMEZ (CA-34)**

Riverside Community College, CA

#### **SEN. CINDY HYDE-SMITH (MS)**

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, MS

#### **REP. NANCY MACE (SC-1)**

Trident Technical College, SC

#### **REP. LISA MCCLAIN (MI-9)**

Lansing Community College, MI

#### **REP. JOHN MCCGUIRE (VA-5)**

Northwest Florida State College, FL

#### **REP. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS (IA-1)**

San Antonio College, TX

#### **REP. BLAKE D. MOORE (UT-1)**

Snow College, UT

# MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACKGROUNDS (CONT.)

**REP. RICHARD NEAL (MA-1)**

Holyoke Community College, MA

**REP. GARY PALMER (AL-6)**

Northwest-Shoals Community College, AL

**REP. MARLIN STUTZMAN (IN-3)**

Glen Oaks Community College, MI

**REP. NORMA TORRES (CA-35)**

Mount San Antonio College, CA  
Rio Hondo College, CA

**REP. DAVID VALADAO (CA-22)**

College of Sequoias, CA

**REP. RANDY WEBER (TX-14)**

Alvin Community College, TX

## **Taught at a Community College**

**REP. JOYCE BEATTY (OH-3)**

Sinclair Community College, OH

**REP. WESLEY BELL (MO-1)**

St. Louis Community College, MO  
(Professor and Program Coordinator)

**REP. JUDY CHU (CA-28)**

Los Angeles City College, CA  
East Los Angeles College, CA

**REP. VERONICA ESCOBAR (TX-16)**

El Paso Community College, TX

**REP. VIRGINIA FOXX (NC-5)**

Caldwell Community College, NC  
Mayland Community College, NC (President)

**REP. ROBERT GARCIA (CA-42)**

Long Beach City College, CA

**REP. JOSH HARDER (CA-10)**

Modesto Junior College, CA

**REP. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS (FL-8)**

Brevard Community College, FL  
(Professor and Department Chair)

**SEN. PATTY MURRAY (WA)**

Shoreline Community College, WA

## Members of Community College Board of Trustees

### **REP. BYRON DONALDS (FL-19)**

Florida Southwestern State College, FL

### **REP. ZOE LOFGREN (CA-19)**

San Jose City College, CA

### **REP. BILL PASCRELL (NJ-9)**

Passaic County Community College, NJ

### **REP. MARK TAKANO (CA-39)**

Riverside Community College District, CA

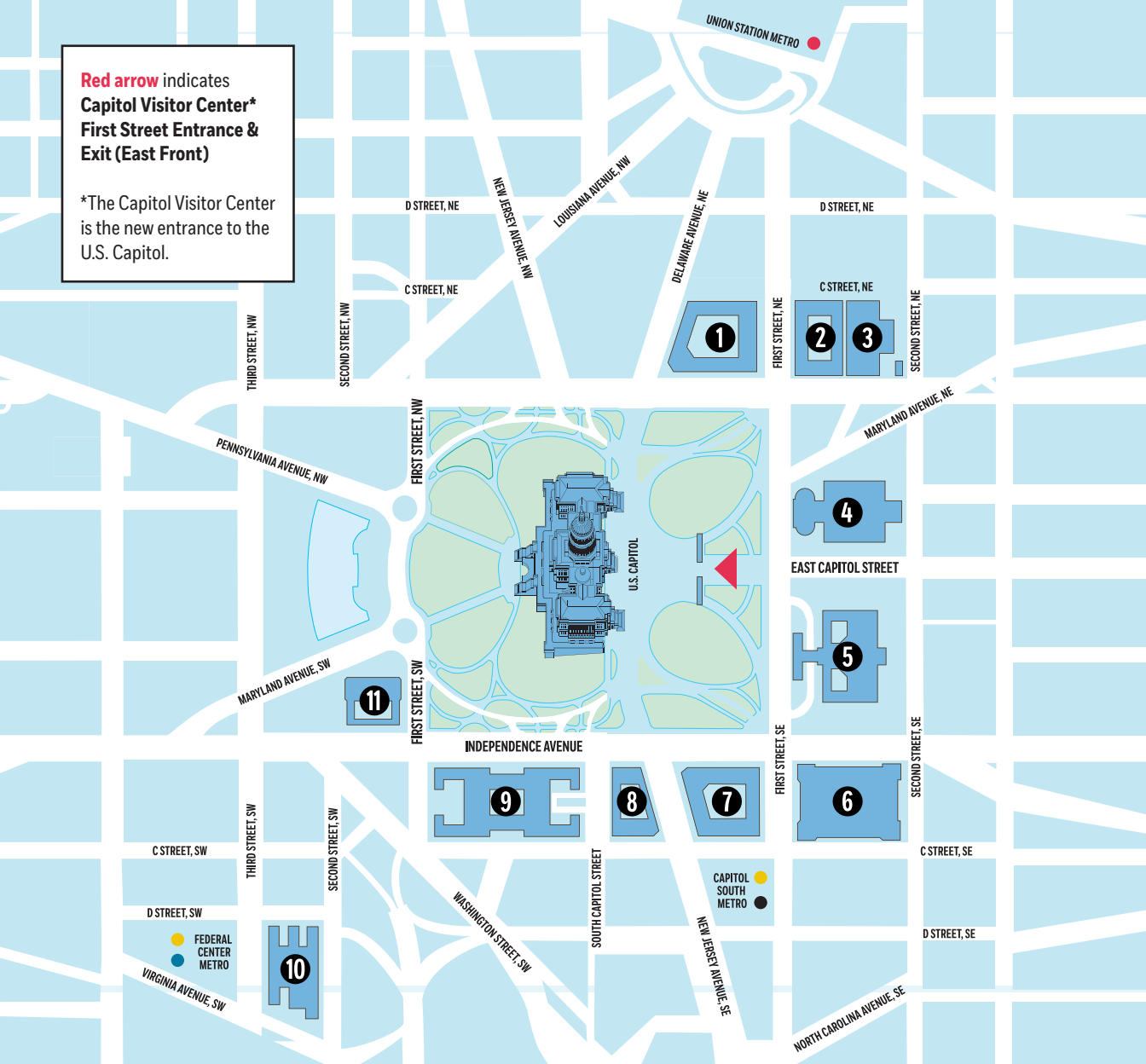
## Member of Community College Foundation Board

### **SEN. BERNIE MORENO (OH)**

Cuyahoga Community College, OH



\*The Capitol Visitor Center is the new entrance to the U.S. Capitol.





# U.S. CAPITOL COMPLEX

---

- 1 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING**
- 2 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING**
- 3 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING**
- 4 U.S. SUPREME COURT**
- 5 JEFFERSON BUILDING, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**
- 6 MADISON BUILDING, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**
- 7 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**
- 8 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**
- 9 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**
- 10 FORD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**
- 11 U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN & THE NATIONAL GARDEN**

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 NLS SPONSORS!



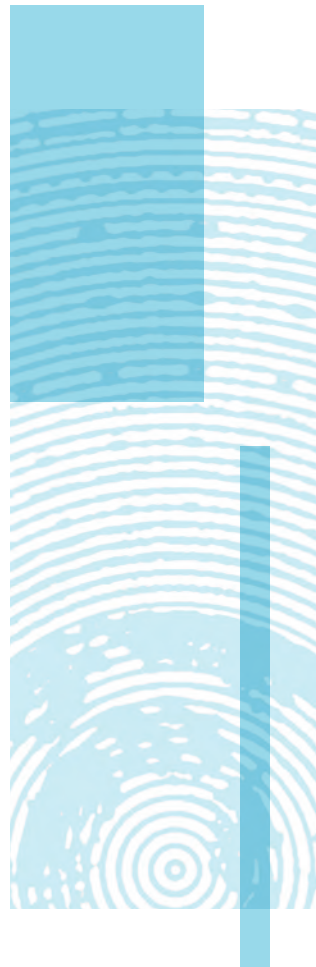
## LIGHTCAST

Bronze Level Sponsor  
[www.lightcast.io](http://www.lightcast.io)



## EDAMERICA

National Capital Reception Sponsor  
[www.edamerica.net](http://www.edamerica.net)



# Labor market insight for higher education

**Align programs with  
market demand**

**Connect students  
to career pathways**

**Communicate  
alumni outcomes  
& economic impact**



# The ACCT NLS Event App

---

**TO SEE A COMPLETE LIST** of all featured speakers for our general sessions, policy focus and breakout sessions, and special guests, please download the **ACCT NLS EVENT APP**.

With the app, you will be able to:

- View all featured and keynote speakers.
- Create your own customized daily schedules.
- Share your photos from the event via the social media wall.
- Follow the event live through the social media plugins.
- Connect with other event participants (only available among participants who create an app login).

Scan or click on the QR code below or search the Apple app store for “Association of Community College Trustees” to download the mobile app to your phone or other mobile device.



**Download the  
Apple version**



**Download the Android/  
Google version**

# ACCT Advocacy Resources

---

Whether through Pell Grants, institutional aid, or workforce development programs, the federal government has a significant impact on community colleges. The Government Relations Team at the Association of Community College Trustees is dedicated to helping trustees become better informed about what is happening in Washington, DC, and gain knowledge as to how to be the best advocate for their institutions.

Stay engaged through the links below and by visiting ACCT's Advocacy page [www.acct.org/advocacy](http://www.acct.org/advocacy) for all content, resources, and materials related to federal advocacy for community college trustees. Please email any questions to [publicpolicy@acct.org](mailto:publicpolicy@acct.org).

## Latest Action in Washington (LAW) Update



Our twice-a-week LAW Update newsletter brings the latest news in higher education directly to your inbox. Sign up under the LAW Updates section at ACCT NOW to access updates on community college priorities, funding opportunities, and webinars.

## ACCT Now



ACCT Now is the go-to resource for issues affecting community colleges. In addition to reporting, research, and articles, you'll have access to of-the-moment legislative updates.

## Action Center



The ACCT Advocacy Action Center is a one-stop shop for supporters of community colleges seeking to find and message their federal elected officials, respond to relevant regulation comment requests, and review the list of bills ACCT is monitoring.

## NOTES







**Association of Community College Trustees**

1101 17th Street NW, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20036

P: 202.775.4667

[www.acct.org](http://www.acct.org)



LEAD ADVOCATE ADVANCE

**American Association of Community Colleges**

One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20036

P: 202.728.0200 F: 202.833.2467

[www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu)