



## After a Decade, Workforce Pell is Top of Mind

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DEAR ACCT MEMBERS,

THE SPRING ISSUE OF *TRUSTEE QUARTERLY* always follows the Community College National Legislative Summit, and the issue always highlights community college legislative priorities and related public policy. With one glance at the table of contents, you will notice that Workforce Pell is at the top of everyone's mind this year.

ACCT began its advocacy for this program a decade ago, back when I led the association's public policy efforts — and its approval is the result of our collective efforts to ensure that thousands of our students will have new opportunities in short-term programs. After ten years of hard work to get it through Congress, now begins the hard work of implementing Workforce Pell nationwide. The program is complex and implementing it on our campuses will take time. It also charges states with a new role in overseeing these programs, which gives us an opportunity — and the responsibility — to strengthen our relationships with both state workforce leaders and the industries in our communities. As Michelle Van Noy and Mark M. D'Amico argue on p. 26, Workforce Pell should also be seen as an accelerant to embrace broader workforce goals, a role trustees are well-positioned to champion.

I encourage you to work closely with ACCT's public policy and advocacy team to let us know how the program is — or is not — working for your institution so we can collaboratively be a voice for necessary changes.

All Pell Grants support students who need financial support to succeed in college. This kind of care drives ACCT's work as much as it drives the work at your colleges. This year, ACCT Board Chair Carol Del Carlo also has called for all of us to focus on leading with care as we drive change — and this will be one of the primary focuses of the 2026 ACCT Leadership Congress in Chicago this October 21-24.

One Congress educational track will focus on “leading with care: wellness & institutional culture,” while others will focus on workforce development, strategic use of AI and related technologies, enrollment strategies, creating student-centered pathways for success, and effective board governance.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago this October.

**JEE HANG LEE**  
*ACCT President and CEO*