



2024 ACCT Leadership Congress sessions featuring speakers from Texas community colleges

Wednesday, October 23

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Special Session: New Trustees and First-Time Attendees Welcome

Room 603, Level 6, Convention Center

A must-attend session for new trustees and/or first-time ACCT Congress attendees. This session is designed to accelerate and enhance your experience, and it is an opportunity for meeting other new trustees. We will provide an overview on how to navigate through all the meetings, sessions, and exciting opportunities offered during the 2021 Congress. Information will also be provided on how to get involved and participate in the ACCT membership and business meetings.

Vernon Jung, Jr., Trustee, Moraine Park Technical College, WI
Lydia Santibanez, Trustee, Temple College, TX
Helen Rosemond-Saunders, Tri-County Technical College, SC

Thursday, October 24

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Building a Strong Partnership through Board Assessment and Evaluation

Room 607, Level 6, Convention Center

Board self-assessment and CEO evaluation are considered standards of good practice. Periodic assessment and CEO evaluation provide an opportunity for the board to reflect on its own performance and contributions and to evaluate how well the president/CEO is carrying out the board's priorities. It is also an opportunity to establish goals and priorities, and can strengthen the Board-CEO relationship. Panelists will share strategies, suggestions, and lessons for how they engage their boards in these important processes.

Jill Wakefield, Facilitator, ACCT Consultant
Pradnya Desh, Trustee, Bellevue College, WA
Cynthia Lenton-Gary, Chair, Houston Community College, TX

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Unlocking Opportunities: Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Offers Educational Access for Dual Credit Students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch

Room 612, Level 6, Convention Center



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Show me the money!!! A component of Texas HB8's radically new funding model is the FAST Program. This panel addresses important challenges college administration face and key questions your board should address to ensure full implementation. Discover how FAST supports educational access, empowering students pursuing higher education without financial barriers.

Susan Moore-Fontenot, ACCT Board of Directors; Trustee, Lee College, TX
Lynda Villanueva, President, Lee College, TX
Marissa Moreno, Executive Director, School & College Partnerships, Lee College, TX

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Powering the Future: Grayson College's EET Program Fuels Semiconductor Industry Growth in Texoma Tech Hub Region

Room 614, Level 6, Convention Center

Grayson College's Electrical Engineering Technology (EET) program addresses semiconductor industry demand by upskilling students for automated manufacturing roles in the Texoma region. Texas Instruments and Global Wafers launched \$35 billion expansion and GC responded by building three stackable programs. The first cohort was 100% successful and achieved full employment.

Debbie Barnes-Plyler, Chair, Grayson College, TX
John Spies, Trustee, Grayson College, TX
Jeremy P. McMillen, President, Grayson College, TX

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

How Trustees Can Support Presidents as People First and Professionals

Second Room 617, Level 6, Convention Center

Dr. Morrison will moderate an engaging conversation about the personal and professional challenges facing our college leaders coming out of the pandemic. Building on interviews from Morrison's newly published book, *The Survival Guide for GenX Leaders*, conversations will focus on pragmatic ways for trustees to support their presidents.

Amy M. Morrison, President, Lake Washington Institute of Technology-LWTech;
Author, *The GenX Leader Survival Guide*, WA
William Serrata, President, El Paso Community College, TX
Kevin Brockbank, Chancellor, Spokane Colleges, WA
Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, Chancellor, Seattle Colleges, WA
John Suk, Board Chair, Lake Washington Institute of Technology (LWTech), WA
Doug Mah, Trustee, South Puget Sound Community College, WA



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

The 2024 Bellwether Award Recipients: Growth Catalysts in the Healthcare, Teacher and College Workforce

Room 609, Level 6, Convention Center

The 2024 Bellwether Award recipients highlight their innovative, scalable, replicable, and equity-focused responses to critical workforce issues from credentialing in critical fields to providing successful support systems and accelerating hiring and onboarding processes. Engage with three award-winning colleges: St. Louis Community College, Reading Area Community College, and Lakeshore Technical College.

Rose Martinez, Director, Alamo Colleges District - Bellwether College Consortium, TX

Clint Kingsbery, Chair, Alamo Colleges, TX

Jeff L. Pittman, Chancellor, St. Louis Community College, MO

Robin Eckert, Dean of Social Science / Human Services, Reading Area Community College, PA

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Temple College Scales Caring Campus: A Total Transformation for Enrollment, Retention, and Success

Room 613, Level 6, Convention Center

Caring Campus is a research-based initiative through the Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC). Temple College has fully scaled Caring Campus for faculty and staff, and through this effort, the College has created an enrollment management plan through the lens of Caring Campus to also support retention and success.

Christy Ponce, President, Temple College, TX

Lydia Santibanez-Farrell, Trustee, Temple College, TX

Susan Guzman-Trevino, Provost/Vice President, Academic Affairs and Student Services, Temple College, TX

9:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Community College Lawyers Roundtable

Room 615, Level 3, Convention Center

Ira Shepard, ACCT General Counsel; Partner, Saul Ewing LLP, DC

Carolyn Pellegrini, Partner, Saul Ewing LLP, PA

Andrew Laine, Association Counsel, ACCT, DC

Cobby Caputo, Partner, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, TX

Augustin "Augie" Rivera, Jr., General Counsel, Del Mar College, TX

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Conducting an Effective CEO Search

Room 607, Level 6, Convention Center



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Nearly one in four community colleges is experiencing a transition in executive leadership, so it's critical that your board understands today's rapidly changing leadership landscape. Is your board close to initiating a presidential search? Learn how the board and college can best prepare for a CEO transition. This session will cover best practices in designing an open, equitable, and national search process, how to recruit a highly diverse and strong candidate pool, and what mistakes boards should avoid.

Deborah Briggs, Board Chair, SUNY Ulster, NY
Cecilia Cervantes ACCT Consultant
Pamila Fisher, ACCT Consultant
Jackie Ramos, Trustee, Laredo Community College, TX
Luke Robins, ACCT Consultant
Julie Golder MODERATOR Vice President of Search Services, ACCT

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Looking Into the Future: Implementing Enterprise Risk Management as a Proactive Strategy to Understand and Mitigate Risk

Room 615, Level 6, Convention Center

Central to trustee's fiduciary responsibility is ensuring the health of the institution. Enterprise risk management strategically considers risk from the perspective of the entire college. This methodology allows boards to proactively identify risks before they occur, thereby promoting policies to mitigate risks which threaten the college in meeting fiscal objectives.

Pretta VanDible Stallworth, Secretary-Treasurer, ACCT Board of Directors;
Trustee, Houston Community College, TX
Andrea Burrige, Interim Vice Chancellor, Strategy, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, Houston Community College, TX
Robert McCracken, Associate Vice Chancellor, Risk Management and Resilience, Houston Community College, TX
Terrance Corrigan, Director, Internal Auditing, Houston Community College, TX
Butch Herod President, HCC - Central College, TX

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Enhancing the Student Trustee Experience: Strategies for Community College Boards

Room 619, Level 6, Convention Center

Discover effective strategies for supporting student trustees, based on recent ACCT research. Gain insights from a panel of student trustees and explore best practices for program models, support services, and the lasting impact of their roles.

Brandon Aviado, Former Student Trustee, Alamo Colleges District, TX



Friday, October 25

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Unlocking Opportunity

Room 612, Level 6, Convention Center

San Antonio College will be leading a presentation on behalf of the Alamo Colleges District regarding Unlocking Opportunity (UO). This initiative is a research and action group within the Aspen Institute with one overarching goal: thousands more community college students entering and completing programs that have high post-completion value.

Victoria Moe, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Alamo Colleges District – San Antonio College, TX
Joe Alderete Jr., Trustee, Alamo Colleges District, TX
Francisco Solis, President, Alamo Colleges District – San Antonio College, TX
Cassandra Rincones, Vice President for Academic Success, Co-lead for Unlocking Opportunity, Alamo Colleges District— San Antonio College, TX
Savithra Eratne, Director of College Institutional Research, Data lead for Unlocking Opportunity, Alamo Colleges District— San Antonio College, TX

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

From Childcare Crisis to Baccalaureate Solution: Growing the Teacher Pipeline Through Innovation

Room 609, Level 6, Convention Center

This presentation explores Dallas College's groundbreaking initiative to address the national childcare staffing shortage through the creation of the first baccalaureate degree program in Texas. The session overviews a data-driven decision-making process that led us to tackle a set of challenges familiar to institutions serving both urban and rural populations.

Rob DeHaas, Vice Provost School of Education, Dallas College, TX
Monica Lira Bravo, Chair, Dallas College, TX
Diana Flores, Trustee, Dallas College, TX
Justin Lonon, Chancellor, Dallas College, TX

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Navigating Strategic Technology Decisions: How to Modernize Your Campus and Remove Barriers to Completion

Room 613, Level 6, Convention Center

Laredo College will share its student-focused, data-driven journey in modernizing its technology stack to SaaS. Learn how they streamlined processes, increased enrollment, and improved retention rates. Gain insights into overcoming barriers to student success through strategic technology and discover best practices for fostering student success.



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Minita Ramirez, President, Laredo College, TX
Ellen Mayes, Director of Strategic Programs, Ellucian
Jackie Levens-Ramos, Trustee, Laredo College, TX

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Data-Informed Governance Framework for Trustee Decision-Making

Room 618, Level 6, Convention Center

In today's technology-rich society the amount of data available can be overwhelming, making it paramount for boards to set clear objectives aligned with the college's mission and vision. The Community College Association of Texas Trustees developed the Data-Informed Governance Framework that outlines the process for board decision making.

Nicole Eversmann, Director, Community College Association of Texas Trustees, TX
Susan Moore-Fontenot, Trustee, Lee College, TX
Carol A. Scott, Trustee, Del Mar College, TX

2:15 p.m.– 3:15 p.m.

Trustees Advocating for Public Policy Locally & at the State-Level

Room 609, Level 6, Convention Center

Trustees play a vital role in shaping public policy and legislative advocacy, leveraging their collective expertise, influence, and resources to advocate for their colleges and communities. This interactive session will explore how the president and trustees are actively involved in policy development, public engagement, coalition building, and legislative outreach.

William Serrata, President, El Paso Community College, TX
Keri Moe, Associate Vice President of External Relations, Communication & Development, El Paso Community College, TX
Brian Haggerty, Chair, El Paso Community College, TX
Carmen Olivas Graham, Trustee, El Paso Community College, TX
Belen Robles, Trustee, El Paso Community College, TX

3:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Collaboration beyond Articulation: Dual Admission and Co-Enrollment as Catalysts for Student Success

Room 619, Level 6, Convention Center

Almost 80% of entering community college students aspire to baccalaureate degrees. Approximately 20% succeed. Eliminating transfer barriers allows students to realize their academic goals. Blinn College's focus on dual admission and co-enrollment agreements ranges from physical colocation to remote and fully online environments and results in graduation rates of 70%–80%.



Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Allison Bentke, Trustee, Blinn College District, TX
Randy Wells, Trustee, Blinn College District, TX
Rebecca Ehlert, Trustee, Blinn College District, TX
Diane Kettler, Trustee, Blinn College District, TX
Marcelo Bussiki, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Blinn College District, TX
Becky McBride, Vice Chancellor for Student Services, Blinn College District, TX
Michelle McGehee, Dean for Academic Affairs, Blinn College District, TX

Saturday, October 26

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

CEO Search Expertise: Engage with ACCT Search Consultants and Trustees

Room 608, Level 6, Convention Center

This is your opportunity to engage with the ACCT Search Team and also hear the trustee perspective. Ask the questions that you need answered before conducting your CEO search. What type of search process will work for your college? How can your college attract a highly diverse and competitive candidate pool? What challenges could your institution face when a long-time president is leaving? What can derail your search? Ask us and find out.

William “Bill” Holda, Consultant, ACCT
Andre Lassiter, Trustee, Roanoke-Chowan Community College, NC
Susan Moore-Fontenot, Member, ACCT Board of Directors; Trustee, Lee College, TX
Julie Golder, Vice President of Search Services, ACCT, DC