



ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Date: March 31, 2025

Memo to: Chancellors, Superintendents, Presidents, and Accreditation Liaison
Officers of ACCJC Member Institutions; Other Interested Parties

From: Mac Powell, President MP

Subject: Sharing Your Workforce Innovations & Strengthening Our Federal
Alignment

Dear Colleagues,

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) is committed to celebrating and supporting the innovative ways our member institutions promote student success. As part of our ongoing efforts to highlight promising practices across the region, we have sent electronic requests to our members' Accreditation Liaison Officers to learn more about how our colleges are partnering with workforce and industry leaders to expand educational and employment opportunities for students.

We know that many of our member colleges are deeply engaged in collaborations that connect students to high-demand careers, build pathways into local industries, and support economic mobility for students. We want to elevate and share these examples to inspire peer institutions and inform national policy conversations about the value of higher education.

To that end, ACCJC—in partnership with the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC)—will be in Washington DC in May for meetings on Capitol Hill to educate Members and staff about accreditation. We believe your stories are critical to demonstrating campus-level innovation to leaders across DC and can shape a deeper understanding of how two-year institutions are advancing economic opportunity and student success across the country.

As we prepare for these initiatives, we invite you to partner with your Accreditation Liaison Officer to share any recent or ongoing efforts your institution has undertaken to:

- Strengthen partnerships with local employers or workforce boards
- Align programs with labor market needs or emerging industries
- Offer work-based learning, apprenticeships, or internships
- Support job placement, career readiness, or lifelong learning for students

Our goal is to feature a range of institutional efforts—large and small—that demonstrate a commitment to innovation and student-centered outcomes. Your input will help us tell a more comprehensive story of how ACCJC institutions are making a profound and lasting impact—locally and nationally.

In addition to this important federal engagement, the Commission is undertaking a comprehensive review of ACCJC’s Standards of Accreditation, Eligibility Requirements, policies, and practices. The goal of this review is to ensure continued alignment with the Higher Education Act of 1965, relevant federal regulations, and updated Department of Education guidance.

ACCJC’s Policy Committee is working collaboratively with ACCJC’s legislative team and legal counsel to assess whether updates are needed to our Standards, Accreditation Handbook, or Manuals. This work will further reinforce our commitment to regulatory compliance while also advancing our shared mission of supporting institutional quality and successful outcomes for all ACCJC students.

Finally, as we conduct our own internal review, ACCJC is expanding our collaboration with our sister accreditors to strengthen communications and policy responsiveness. This includes the hiring of additional communications staff and coordinating our respective responses to Dear Colleague Letters, Executive Orders, and proposed legislation. We believe that this renewed commitment to collaboration across accreditors and institutions will make all of us more informed and well-positioned to navigate the complex legal and policy landscape in higher education.

Thank you for your continued commitment to educational excellence. We look forward to learning from your work, sharing your successes, and representing your voices across the country.

