

Information Item

ACCT 2022 Conference Attendance Report for the Board of Trustees from Trustee Raj Menon

In October, I attended the 2022 ACCT Leadership Congress held in New York. The conference theme was “Improving the Lives of Entire Families.”

This year, I was the sole attendee from Collin College. As a “serial” ACCT Congress attendee, I can attest that this conference is a refreshing opportunity to network with, get inspired by, and learn from what the best community college trustees and staff from all over the country have to offer. I highly recommend it.

Below is a brief listing (in no particular order) of my notes and of ideas presented and shared by trustees and administrators in the sessions, which I found most interesting and/or noteworthy. These include sessions/presentations on: Governance, DEI and Student Success, Cybersecurity, Entrepreneurship Programs and Student Success, and ACCT Resources on Federal Legislation.

I am happy to discuss any of these in more detail with interested Board members or administrators. I can also share copies of some of the presentations, which I have received from the presenters.

(Disclaimer: These are not all my opinions, nor are they recommendations, but rather a listing of some of the ideas that were expressed by others at the conference, which I found noteworthy.)

OPENING GENERAL SESSION: What does Governance look like?

- Lawrence Schall, J.D., Ed.D., President, New England Commission of Higher Education:
 - Being a trustee is a volunteer job. But it is NOT a part time job.
 - Turnover of presidency is extraordinary, these days. This puts more onus on the Boards.
- Belle S. Whelan, Ph.D., President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges:
 - Good governance looks like governance and not administration.
 - Do your role. And hold the President responsible for doing his or her role. If you can do that - it's a piece of cake!
- Jo Alice Blondin, Ph.D., Clark State Community College, Higher Learning Commission, President, Chair:
 - Self-evaluation of the board is important

- Understanding data, so it informs decision making and resource allocation
- Exercising strong fiduciary responsibilities
- Laser focused on mission. Separate from day-to-day activities.
- Sonny Ramaswamy, Ph.D., President, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
 - Trifecta of duties - that trustees share: Loyalty, Care, and Obedience
- Dr. Daisy Gonzales, Interim Chancellor, California Community Colleges: (has a Checklist)
 - understand the purpose of accreditation
 - focus on students, families, and communities that you serve
 - focus on outcomes

Catalyzing an Inclusive Campus: Moving the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Agenda Forward

- Bergen College - NJ's largest/best - contains municipalities with Korean-American percentage
Example: "This is the work!" - Their Mission: to inspire our community to realize a better future
- Dr. Mi Na Ahn - Prof of Psychology, Director, Institute of Multicultural Learning
BELONGING-ness - College is not a series of spaces - it is a PLACE - where people BELONG
- New President in 2021 – he is entrusted with an ETHIC OF CARE
- PACDEI - President's Advisory Council on Diversity Equity and Inclusion
RECOGNITION of members' contributions to DEI. (What impact does this have?)
- Example: Students wanted to learn Psych and American History
Had challenges understanding nuances of the subject - because of their lack of proficiency in English - "What it means to be an American?"
HIS 144 - American Issues and Problems
Talked about Korean violence issues... students/families were scared
Identity of diaspora?
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) has many effective programs www.hacu.net e.g.: HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) – Relevant to Collin College's efforts to becoming recognized as a Hispanic-serving institution...
- STEM Program - STEM students have significant improvement in graduation rates – attributed to DEI initiatives within STEM
- Inspiring story of student Eduardo – received recognition from the El Salvadoran embassy as the second most distinguished El Salvadoran OUTSIDE of the country

ACCT Federal Policy Updates

- ACCT Now - <https://now.acct.org/> - always has current update on Federal Legislative issues for community colleges – also has a LAW Alerts subscription service

Data Security Essentials: Actionable Advice to Improve Campus Security

- Presenter: Robert Ferrilli – CEO of Ferrilli – Cybersecurity Consultants
- Well attended session – with lots of discussion and questions
- 2FA / 3FA / MFA is the most important thing you can do for your institution. Two factor authentication is now considered the “minimum” standard for cybersecurity
- North Korean agents that are applying for CISO positions. Organized crime agencies
- Discussing cybersecurity with insurance broker is important
- Check policy to make sure SOCIAL engineering, etc. are included
- Estimate of \$180 cost per record stolen. (IBM data)
- Reduce your cybersecurity footprint. E.g. Don't keep SSN of someone who filled out a FAFSA form - who may not even apply to your college. Need to periodically PURGE this data
- EDUCAUSE.edu is a good resource

Building an Innovative Ecosystem to Support Community College Entrepreneurship Programs

- Start It Up! - Can get demo if interested
- Asynchronous online offering - Presented by Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) <https://www.nfte.com>
- This transitioned from a free program to a fee-for-service model
- NFTE partnering with Colleges – like College of Southern Nevada, Kevin Raiford, Professor of Business
- Kene Turner – Was a great dynamic speaker. <http://innovation.NFTE.com>
- <https://innovation.nfte.com/about>