



## GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

### *Fostering Community College Student Completion through Effective Governance*

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the Community College Leadership Program (CCLP) of The University of Texas at Austin (UT) have joined forces to create the Governance Institute for Student Success (GISS), a three-year initiative, supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to help boards of trustees and presidents develop the leadership tools they need to improve student success and completion. With national attention focused on increasing the number of Americans who hold a college degree or credential, student completion and institutional accountability represent the most important public policy work that trustees can undertake to fulfill their governance and fiduciary responsibilities.

The GISS combines the most successful elements of ACCT's Governance Leadership Institute and the CCLP's Board of Trustees Institute models, bringing together community college presidents and trustees within specific states to focus on improving student outcomes and strengthening institutional governance. The institutes, held in September 2010, brought leaders of 22 of Ohio's community and technical colleges to work closely with resident faculty experts for two and half days analyzing and discussing data on the effectiveness of their colleges' governing boards and on their students' outcomes in developmental education. Participants shared and learned promising policies and practices to help move their respective institutions from evaluating success based on enrollment rates, to adopting performance indicators that measure retention, educational attainment, and progress to completion of certificates, degrees, or successful transfers.

Testimonies to the value of the Ohio GISS include:

*"...A group of our trustees now have a firm understanding of student success and how important data is in the process. And I know they are going to bring it back to the remaining trustees and we are going to implement new policies..."*

- Dr. Joseph Bukowski, President, Belmont Community College, OH

*"...it's awakened in us a need to look at the data and analyze it."*

- Les Smithers, Trustee, Clark State Community College, OH

*"...the session here has brought out a lot of questions, a lot of suggestions that we will naturally go back and try to implement in our college."*

- Mike Oliver, Trustee, Washington State Community College, OH

*“As a new president, this has been a great experience of setting the agenda with some of our Board. The focus is on student success.”*

- David Harrison, Trustee, Washington State Community College, OH

*“...I will take back the information from the self-assessment..the language of boardmanship and looking at student success and asking questions of the data..and then looking at what we can do...so that we have more students succeeding.”*

- Dr. Lorrinda Saxby, Trustee, Belmont Community College, OH

The GISS initiative will engage the leadership teams of 146 boards, representing 1,200 trustees in four states, serving 1.3 million students. In 2011, the GISS will invite community and technical colleges from Washington and Texas to participate in the initiative.

The Washington GISS will be held Sunday, June 26 through Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at the Suncadia resort in Cle Elum, Washington.

The Texas GISS will provide an opportunity for a selected group of 24 community colleges in the state to participate in the initiative. The Texas GISS is scheduled to take place at the Dallas Fort Worth Marriott Hotel & Golf Club from Sunday, July 31 through Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

For more information please contact:

#### **ACCT**

Dr. Narcisa A. Polonio, (202) 276-1983 or [npolonio@acct.org](mailto:npolonio@acct.org)

Elizabeth Alvarado, (202) 775-4470 or [ealvarado@acct.org](mailto:ealvarado@acct.org)

Patricia Ma, (202)384-5819 or [pma@acct.org](mailto:pma@acct.org)

#### **CCLP**

Dr. Byron McClenney, (512) 471-4484 or [bmcclenney@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:bmcclenney@mail.utexas.edu)

Dr. Margaretta B. Mathis, (512) 232-6226 or [mbmathis@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:mbmathis@austin.utexas.edu)