

# ACCJC*Connect*

DECEMBER 2024



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HAPPY  
*holidays*

## President's Message

**Wishing you and yours a joyful holiday season**

Dear Colleagues,



It is hard to believe that the year has nearly come to an end. The collective work taking place across our membership is transformative and worthy of a well-deserved and much-needed time of rest and reflection. As we close out the year ahead of a winter break, I am in Washington D.C., meeting with our colleagues in Congress who will play an important role in the year ahead. Highlighting the value of two-year institutions and their impact on communities was made easier by everything that you do – and by the work that we are all doing to better tell our story and to share the data that brings stakeholders from both sides of the aisle to our mission.

As I reflect on 2024, I am immensely proud of the work that ACCJC staff and volunteers have accomplished and grateful for the continued collaboration and relationship building with our member institutions and partners in the field. This year, ACCJC held its 2024 Partners in Excellence Conference, developed and launched its [2030 Strategic Plan](#), launched [three major initiatives](#) in collaboration with representatives from member institutions, continued to develop our Accreditation Platform, was awarded continued recognition by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, enhanced our support for [quality in distance education](#), and launched the Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project. As part of these combined efforts, ACCJC hosted two of seven regional convenings where we engaged with institutional representatives on the topic of data, transparency, and communicating the value of two-year institutions of higher education. Across our expanding region, over 200 peer reviewers volunteered their time to serve on comprehensive peer review teams, including a visit to a rural community college in Arizona and a tribal institution in the desert of California. The work of peer review accreditation would not be possible without our volunteers' dedication and hard work. Finally, ACCJC is incredibly grateful to have been awarded a \$400,000 grant from [College Futures Foundation](#) to advance our Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project and develop a Student Return on Investment (ROI) metric as discussed in the [Navigating the Value Landscape for Accreditation](#) white paper. The driving motivation behind all of this work is to highlight the value you bring to the students you all so passionately serve and to proudly share our outcomes as we advocate for our collective work. While I know these are challenging times for many reasons, we at ACCJC remain hopeful and inspired by all that you do on behalf of the over 2.5 million students you serve.

Thank you for your work, your partnership, and your support. Happy Holidays!

Yours,  
Mac Powell

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## Commission Announcements and Updates

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### ACCJC Hosted the First Two Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project Regional Convenings

ACCJC was delighted to gather with colleagues at Honolulu Community College and Riverside City College for the first two of seven scheduled regional convenings on data, transparency, and communicating the value of two-year institutions of higher education. Over 50 people joined us from institutions across the Pacific in October and almost 90 gathered at Riverside City College in November.

This week, invitations were sent out for the five convenings scheduled for 2025. **We invite college administrators, faculty, staff, and trustees to participate in the conversations.** Space can accommodate **up to five attendees** from each member institution at a designated regional convening. We look forward to seeing many of you at those convenings next year!



*Some of the attendees at the Regional Convening hosted at Honolulu Community College in October*



*The gathering of members at the Regional Convening hosted at Riverside City College in November*

### ACCJC Enhances Support for Quality in Distance Education as Online Enrollment Soars Post-COVID

In November, ACCJC shared a suite of resources designed to help institutions uphold and demonstrate quality in their distance education programs. These tools are also intended to assist peer reviewers during the accreditation process, ensuring a rigorous yet supportive review experience. ACCJC's available resources include:

1. [Quality Continuum Rubric for Distance Education](#)
2. [Addendum to the Protocol for Distance Education Review](#)
3. [DE Assessment Tool for Peer Reviewers](#)
4. [Frequently Asked Questions for institutions and peer reviewers involved in distance education evaluations](#)

For additional information, visit: <https://accjc.org/announcement/distance-education-resources/>

### **President Powell Featured on "Leading Community Colleges in California" Podcast**

President Mac Powell and Community College League of California President & CEO Larry Galizio, discuss the vital role of accreditation in safeguarding educational integrity and some of the challenges facing higher education in the latest episode of the league's "Leading Community Colleges in California" podcast.

The recording is available at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1534705/episodes/16268325>.

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## ***ACCJC On The Move***

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### **Stories of Student Success and Institutional Transformation**

The story of an institution is the story of the people, places, and communities that serve its students. Conversations about student success often focus solely on graduation rates or other benchmark data that can obscure the true impact institutions, programs, and people have on the human beings served. *ACCJC On The Move* is about our journey to understand the distinct missions of the 137 institutions ACCJC serves, and the promising impactful practices changing lives inside and outside the classroom. Our most recent articles feature [Napa Valley College](#), [Mendocino College](#), and [College of the Redwoods](#). Take a look at [ACCJC On The Move](#), follow us on Instagram [@accjc\\_onthemove](#), and please say hello when you see President Powell on campus!

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## Upcoming Events

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### **Open Session of the January 2025 Commission Meeting**

The January meeting of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) will be held **January 8-9, 2025**, at the Kimpton Sawyer Hotel in Sacramento, California. The **Open Session** will be held **Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. PST** and the public is welcome to join in person or virtually. This session will focus on updates on accreditation processes, policies, and activities. Instructions for participation, the agenda, and the meeting materials are available on the [ACCJC Open Session event page](#).

### **Save the Date: Annual Report/Annual Fiscal Report Webinar**

Each spring, ACCJC accredited institutions submit an Annual Report and an Annual Fiscal Report as part of the Commission's institutional performance monitoring process. In this webinar, ACCJC staff will provide an overview of the contents and submission process for both reports and will leave ample time for attendee questions. ACCJC encourages CEOs, ALOs, chief business officers, research staff, and others who will be involved in the preparation of the reports to attend.

The webinar is scheduled for **Thursday, February 13, 2025, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. PST**. Registration information will be available early in the new year. For now, please save the date.

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### **Please Forward ACCJC Connect to Your Colleagues**

Please spread the word by forwarding *ACCJC Connect*. [Use this link to forward the email](#) to colleagues, members of the public, and students to help ACCJC keep member institution personnel and other interested parties apprised of our news and updates. If you have any questions or comments about this communication, please email [communications@accjc.org](mailto:communications@accjc.org). Thank you!

*In an effort to ensure wide distribution of this information ACCJC is utilizing multiple means of communication, we apologize if you receive this as a duplicate.*