

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

Volume 8, Number 2

SACAD Announces Annual Luncheon



Dr. Anton Reece

The Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees (SACAD), is pleased to announce the scheduling of the Annual Membership Luncheon. The luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in Atlanta, Georgia.

The luncheon meeting will be at the Omni CNN Center Hotel in the Dogwood AB Room. The luncheon will include a banquet style meal, a SACAD business session, and a presentation by a keynote speaker as well as door prizes for attendees.

The presenter for the luncheon meeting will be Dr. Anton R. Reece, President of West Kentucky Community and Technical College. The title of the presentation is “A Three Prong Approach to DEI in the Post-Pandemic Era.”

The speaker will describe the efforts of his College in addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion as it relates to: maintaining student access, ensuring student success, and supporting economic development and growth.

Dr. Anton R. Reece hails originally from the Caribbean Country of Barbados. He has an extensive dual career in broadcasting and has also served more than 26 years in higher education. Dr. Reece has a bachelor’s degree in broadcast news and a master’s degree in counseling from Eastern Kentucky University, twenty-four hours above his master’s from Murray State University, and a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. In October 2016, Dr. Reece was appointed as the

second President of West Kentucky Community and Technical College. West Kentucky Community and Technical College is a record five-time, top-ten ranked college (Aspen Institute), and in May 2021 ranked in the top 5 colleges with distinction among the nation’s more than 1000 community and technical colleges. Dr. Reece was selected to the Aspen new Presidents Fellowship’s 2021 cohort and under his leadership WKCTC also received a record 15 million dollar grant from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott in December 2020.

This session is designed for presidents, vice-presidents, deans, department heads, and directors in two-year degree granting institutions.

The SACAD luncheon cost is \$35 and interested parties may register and pay by check or by credit card through PayPal on the sacad.org website. Please make checks payable to SACAD for \$35 and send to:

SACAD
P. O. Box 942
Verona, VA 24482

For more information contact Dr. George D. Edwards, SACAD Executive Secretary-Treasurer at gdedwards930@gmail.com or by phone (606) 424-8867.

CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACAD dues for 2022-2023 are \$150.00. If you have not yet paid your membership dues for 2022-2023, you may still do so.

Please contact Dr. George D. Edwards, Executive Secretary-Treasurer at gdedwards930@gmail.com, 606-424-8867, or see the SACAD website at www.sacad.org for more information.

News From The States

Annual Meeting

Dogwood AB Room
Omni CNN Center Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia

December 4, 2022 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PRESIDING

Dr. John Enamait
President, Stanly Community College

WELCOME

Dr. John Enamait

INVOCATION
Dr. Jane Hulon Sims
President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College

BUSINESS SESSION
Financial Report
Dr. George D. Edwards
SACAD Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Recognition of Sponsors
Dr. John Enamait

Recognition of Board Members and Officers
Dr. John Enamait

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER
Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley
President, Madisonville Community College

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Dr. Anton R. Reece
President, West KY Community and Technical College

"A Three Prong Approach to DEI in the Post-Pandemic Era"

DOOR PRIZES
Dr. James David Campbell
President, Northeast Alabama Community College

Lead Sponsor announced for SACAD Luncheon



Edamerica has graciously agreed to be the lead sponsor for the SACAD Annual Membership luncheon to be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at the Omni CNN Center Hotel in The Dogwood AB room from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Edamerica has supported SACAD for many years and their representatives are well known to many of SACAD's member presidents.

With over 20 years of experience in higher education, Edamerica is solely focused on advancing student success. They provide a host of innovative and high-touch solutions that increase enrollment, enhance retention, and improve student loan repayment rates. Their solutions help colleges scale customer service infrastructure to meet student demands while streamlining processes and increasing efficiencies. Edamerica provides contact centers, student outreach and engagement services, student loan default prevention, consulting, and financial aid support. Case studies are available at www.edamerica.net that show the impact of services for colleges and the students they serve.

ALABAMA

ACCS Launches New Innovation Center

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Innovation Center, a \$10 million investment aimed at rapidly training workers for the state's highest-demand industries, has launched its first of several industry-designed programs to help students find immediate employment.

ACCS leaders, students and industry partners kicked off the Innovation Center's opening and demonstrated some of the training at an event on Monday. The training includes short-term classes that students can start from anywhere in the state and finish with an in-person lab in a regional ACCS location. Once students complete the trainings, they are job-ready and are awarded a credential and an opportunity to earn more certifications at their local community college.

The Innovation Center has already successfully collaborated with the Alabama Tourism Department to help workers train for and find jobs in the state's \$16 billion hospitality industry, thanks to a \$1 million grant from Gov. Kay Ivey. All graduates of this pilot training project hosted by Coastal Community College were matched with jobs and

100 percent of students were hired upon completion of the training.

The ACCS also received funding from the Legislature to develop the Innovation Center and expand skills training and career technical programs that lead to nationally recognized short-term certifications in high-demand industries.

In addition to hospitality, the first in-demand industries targeted for Innovation Center rapid training include butchery, commercial drivers license (CDL), recreation, heavy equipment, plumbing and facilities maintenance.

AAMA Partners with ACCS for Scholarships

Nearly 70 scholarships are available to residents interested in attending one of Alabama's community colleges to train for careers in the state's automotive manufacturing industry. The scholarships are the result of a partnership between the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association (AAMA) and the Alabama Community College System (ACCS).

Funding is available to award a total of \$4,000 scholarships to students who are enrolled in a program at an Alabama community college that is associated with automotive manufacturing careers. Interested students with at least a 2.5 GPA can learn more information and apply directly through the website, dreamitdoitalabama.com/aama/.

Students who are awarded the scholarship may use the funds for their spring, summer, or fall 2023 tuition, books, and fees associated with the approved program of study. A full submission for the scholarship requires the following: a completed application; completion of a new orientation course to the automotive industry and AAMA scholarship; one signed reference letter; an unofficial college or high school transcript; and a headshot photo.

Programs in which applicants can use the scholarship include the following: Mechatronics; Automated Manufacturing Technology; Industrial Electronics Technology; Industrial Maintenance Technology; Manufacturing Technology; Injection Molding; Machining/Machine Tool/CNC; Welding Technology; Automotive Service Technology; Engineering Technology; Mechanical Design Technology; Logistics.

FLORIDA

Indian River State College Hosts International Conference of Colleges on November 13-15, 2022

Faculty from colleges in six countries joined faculty and students from Indian River State College (IRSC) for an International Conference of Colleges November 13-15 in the Brown Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Building Y) on the Massey Campus in Fort Pierce.



Attendees at the 2019 IBSEN Conference of Colleges in Izmir, Turkey

The purpose of the conference was to develop academic relationships and highlight opportunities for study abroad, international internships, and to share goals and ideas for innovative teaching methods and materials. The International Business Student Exchange Network (IBSEN) meets twice each year at member colleges in May and November. Each meeting consists of four sessions—teaching, business/institutions, internal meetings, and interaction. The last meeting was in May 2022 at The Hague University of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands. This is the first time the meeting will be held at IRSC.

The participating colleges include Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences, Germany; The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands; Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic; South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences, Finland; Universite Polytechnique Hauts-De-France, France; and University of Cagliari, Italy.

The event began Monday morning, November 14, 2022 with remarks by IBSEN President Dr. Alessandro Spano, via Zoom from Italy; IRSC President Dr. Timothy Moore; and IRSC Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Heather Belmont. IBSEN Vice President Dr. Armand Van Oostrom (Netherlands) updated the attendees on the latest developments, achievements and projects of IBSEN members, and will introduce potential IBSEN candidates, followed by elections.

Other presentations and workshops were led by Dr. Jonathan Brindle from France; Tom Kindred, Director of the Florida Small Business Development Center; Michael Hageloh, Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for IRSC; Dr. Angela Browning, IRSC Vice President of Research and Institutional Effectiveness; and faculty from the IRSC School of Business.

For more information about IBSEN, visit <https://www.ibsen-network.com/>.

News From The States-continued

GEORGIA

Margaret H. Venable Announces Retirement



Margaret H. Venable

Dr. Margaret H. Venable, who has served as the fifth president of Dalton State College since January 2015, has announced she will retire in the summer of 2023.

During her eight-year tenure as Dalton State's first female president, Dr. Venable focused the college on providing broad access to high-quality education that transforms lives. Dalton State is ranked No. 23 nationally by Business Insider for Best Return on Investment and nearly two-thirds of graduates last fall completed their degrees without student loans.

Under Dr. Venable's presidency in 2018, Dalton State received the designation of Georgia's first Hispanic-Serving Institution, which allowed the college to receive and implement a \$2.1 million federal Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Dalton State obtained several federal grants over the past five years totaling \$10.5 million in funding for critical resources to support students.

Dalton State completed its second capital campaign in the college's history last year, raising nearly \$19 million in gifts and pledges against a goal of \$16.5 million. Nearly \$6.5 million of the funds raised were for need-based financial assistance for students.

Dr. Venable, who has 33 years of experience working in higher education, said she is transitioning to a new phase of her life and career.

Dr. Emmett Griswold Named New ATC President



Dr. Emmett Griswold

Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Commissioner Greg Dozier has appointed Albany Technical College Executive Vice President, Dr. Emmett Griswold as President of Albany Technical College (ATC).

Dr. Griswold has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, including serving as Interim President of Albany Technical College upon the passing of Dr. Anthony Parker in June, 2022. Dr. Griswold began his career at Albany Technical College in

2004 as an instructor and has served as Criminal Justice Department Chairperson, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Executive Vice President.

Prior to his work in higher and technical education, Dr. Griswold had an extensive career in Law Enforcement/ Corrections serving as Deputy Warden for the Georgia Department of Corrections and Probation/Parole Officer for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Griswold holds an Ed.D. in Adult and Career Education from Valdosta State University, a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Albany State College, and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Albany State College. He assumed his role as President on November 1, 2022.

KENTUCKY

Lin Hillis Named Vice President



Lin Hillis

Ms. Lin Hillis, SPHR, was recently named vice president of talent, inclusion and workforce culture for KCTCS, effective July 11, 2022.

Ms. Hillis is responsible for planning, developing, directing, and implementing system-wide initiatives to promote inclusion, diversity, and pluralism at the 16 colleges and the System Office. Her focus also includes strategies for retaining and recruiting top notch talent to enhance the culture of KCTCS.

Ms. Hillis earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business management and marketing from Franklin University and a Master of Human Resources Development degree from The Ohio State University.

Ms. Hillis lives in Hilliard, Ohio, with her wife and son. He is a sophomore at Ohio State University and is pursuing a career in nursing. She will split her time between central Kentucky and Hilliard for a period of time.

Dr. Laura L. McCullough Named President



Dr. Laura L.
McCullough

Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) President Paul Czarapata recently announced the selection of Laura L. McCullough, Ed.D., as president/CEO of Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC).

Dr. McCullough most recently served as vice president of workforce, community and corporate education at BridgeValley Commu-

News From The States –continued

nity and Technical College in South Charleston, West Virginia. Prior to that, she held leadership positions at other West Virginia community colleges.

Dr. McCullough earned a bachelor's degree from Marshall University, an MBA from Oklahoma City University and a doctorate from Marshall.

LOUISIANA

LCTCS Launches new Task Force

Recently the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) hosted the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Workforce Opportunity and Readiness Task Force. The task force, formed during the 2022 legislative session, is comprised of state education leaders, elected officials, and business and industry representatives charged with studying workforce readiness programs and activities in the state's public schools.



HCR 81 Resolution Signing. Back, Pictured L to R: Dr. Monty Sullivan, President, LCTCS; Dr. Ashley Mullens, Director of Rural Innovation Education & Broadband, LCTCS; Dr. Janet Pope, Executive Director, Louisiana School Boards Association; Representative Buddy Mincey, District 71, author of the resolution; Front: Speaker Clay Schexnayder, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Over the next 18 months, the task force will identify successful practices and develop recommendations for promoting successful career and technical education programs across Louisiana.

The task force was brought to life by House Concurrent Resolution 81, authored by Representative Buddy Mincey, District 71. The resolution was developed as a direct result of Representative Mincey hosting multiple industry and legislative tours to showcase Walker High School's exceptional CTE (Career & Technical Education) programs.

The task force will submit an initial report of its findings and recommendations by January 2023, and a final written report by January 2024. These findings are expected to

include:

- Current workforce readiness programs and activities in the state's public schools, including but not limited to high school vocational education programs, dual enrollment programs, and internships.
- Successful workforce readiness programs and practices in Louisiana and elsewhere, including the identification of best practices from these models to guide the expansion of career and technical education program development.
- Impediments to more successful workforce readiness programs and practices in Louisiana, including those in rural communities.
- Funding mechanisms for workforce readiness programs and activities.
- Incentives for districts implementing industry-based opportunities on the state focus list where students are achieving at the advanced levels.
- Training opportunities for principals, career and technical education coordinators or those in equivalent positions, and teachers or instructors, including recommendations related to teacher certification for faculty teaching career and technical education courses.
- Tax incentive opportunities for businesses and industries participating in training programs, apprenticeships, internships, or externships.
- Industry certifications, including those obtained in traditional and nontraditional classrooms.
- Inclusion of workforce readiness programs and activities in the school and district accountability system.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Economic Council Leads Statewide Effort for the Ascent to 55%

In support of Mississippi's Educational Achievement Council (EAC), the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) is hosting a Statewide Listening Tour consisting of public meetings with K-12, higher education, the business community, and the general public. These listening meetings provide an opportunity to have meaningful grassroots conversations pertaining the Educational Achievement Goal for Mississippi referred to as the Ascent to 55% which has been set for the year 2030.

Mississippi Association of Colleges Annual Meeting

The Mississippi Association of Colleges, including both state community colleges and universities, met recently at its annual meeting. This year, the meeting was hosted by Itawamba Community College, in Tupelo MS, the

News From The States –continued

birthplace of Elvis Presley. This face-to-face meeting provided an important professional development opportunity addressing common issues shared by both community colleges and universities. The meeting culminated with the Halbrook Luncheon which recognizes the educational achievement of Mississippi's student athletes at the post-secondary level.

NORTH CAROLINA

Dr. Laura Leatherwood Named President of the Year 2022



Dr. Laura Leatherwood

Blue Ridge Community College President, Dr. Laura Leatherwood, has been named the 2022 President of the Year by the State Board of Community Colleges for North Carolina. Leatherwood was selected from among 58 community colleges in the North Carolina system.

Dr. Leatherwood came to Blue Ridge Community College in 2017 with extensive experience in workforce education and workforce development in western North Carolina. Her career includes leadership roles at Haywood Community College where she served as Vice President of Student and Workforce Development prior to serving as Vice President of Student Services.

As president of Blue Ridge, Dr. Leatherwood has created a collaborative workforce development relationship with community and economic partners. She believes strategic partnerships with area schools, economic development organizations and businesses are essential for building a pipeline of skilled professionals. Her accomplishments include partnering to recruit seven companies to Henderson County, spearheading campus construction projects and adding nine new healthcare offerings while launching three associate degree pathways in Human Services.

Dr. Mark A Sorrells Named as President



Dr. Mark A. Sor-

Dr. Mark A. Sorrells has been selected as the next President of Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) in Fayetteville, N.C. Dr. Sorrells will succeed Dr. J. Larry Keen, effective January 1, 2023.

Dr. Keen, who announced his retirement plans in January of 2022, has been FTCC's President since 2007. Dr. Sorrells will be the fifth president of

FTCC, which was founded in 1961. Prior to joining FTCC, Dr. Sorrells spent 17 years at the Golden LEAF Foundation Inc., including fourteen years as Senior Vice President.

Earlier in his career, he served as Executive Director of North Carolina REAL Enterprises, a statewide organization implementing entrepreneurial education in participating schools and community colleges as an economic development strategy for rural communities.

Dr. Sorrells' career in higher education began at Haywood Community College as a Business Administration Instructor in 1985. Dr. Sorrells earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee. He also holds a Doctor of Education in Education Leadership from East Carolina University. He completed Executive Programs for Philanthropic and Nonprofit Leaders through Stanford University and was a Fellow with the William C. Friday Fellowship for Human Relations' Wildacres Leadership Initiative.

Dr. William S. Carver Named Interim President



Dr. William S. Carver

William S. Carver became interim president of the N.C. Community College System on July 25, 2022.

Carver served as president of Nash Community College from 2005 to 2019. He also previously served as interim president of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS), following the August 2020 departure of then President Peter Hans, who left to become president of the University of North Carolina System.

Dr. Carver earned a bachelor's degree at NC State University, a Master of Business Administration from Campbell University, and a Doctor of Education degree from Nova Southeastern University.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Technical College System Launches EZone Sustainability Campaign

With local, national and global economies shifting priorities towards greater sustainability and environmental stewardship, the Enterprise Zone Retraining Program (EZone) provides a unique sustainability incentive for manufacturing, processing or technology intensive companies in South Carolina. By partnering with EZone,

News From The States –continued

businesses rethink their economic strategy by introducing new equipment, technology or processes to their facility. This could include equipment that reduces the company's carbon footprint, process automation that generates less waste, technology that utilizes artificial intelligence or the Internet of Things, or software that increases efficiency and productivity. Then they retrain full-time production and technology first-line employees and/or immediate supervisors who have been on the company payroll for at least two years and are offered benefits/healthcare through the company. Finally, they receive a reward of 67% cash back on money spent on training eligible employees, multiplying their return on investment.

South Carolina Technical College System Is Key Partner in State's Electric Vehicle Transition

At the 2022 Electric Vehicle (EV) Summit in Greenville, SC, Governor Henry McMaster announced a strategic plan for accommodating the state's burgeoning EV industry. Panel participants and guest speakers from public and private sectors discussed governmental objectives, stakeholder interest, workforce preparation and infrastructure planning as South Carolina anticipates the transportation needs of the 21st century.



Dr. Tim Hardee and Governor. Henry McMaster

At the forefront of the discussions was Dr. Tim Hardee, South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) president. Hardee explained how SCTCS is already well positioned to meet the EV industry's workforce needs, from providing education for new and evolving automotive positions to supporting the training needs of EV manufacturers and suppliers.

While the questions, skills and needs surrounding vehicle electrification may be new, the System's responsiveness is not. Its partnerships with Michelin, BMW, Volvo, Mercedes and others prove its proficiency in working with automotive manufacturers and suppliers. Its participation in the Collaborative Research: REVVED consortium, alongside Clemson University and numerous industry partners, will result in the development of a comprehensive curriculum that utilizes digital learning tools to prepare tomorrow's technician pipeline. And continued legislative funding of South Carolina Workforce Scholarships for the Future will cover tuition and required fees for students enrolled in high-demand fields -- such as manufacturing, transportation, and distribution and logistics -- that

will power South Carolina's evolving EV industry. By serving companies, partners and students in these ways, the System ensures that the state's workforce is ready for the EV transition.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Board of Regents host "We All Rise" Conference

More than 325 faculty, administrators, students and staff from across Tennessee public higher education participated in the 2022 We All Rise, The Biennial Conference on Equity and Completion, October 19-20, 2022 with the overriding goal of increasing student success and completion rates.

The conference, hosted by the Tennessee Board of Regents since 2006, is the state's oldest, largest and most comprehensive public higher education convening focused on equity and diversity. It provides faculty, administrators and staff in Tennessee's community and technical colleges and locally governed universities opportunities to learn from and network with state and national experts who work in the areas of equity, inclusion, faculty, staff and student engagement, and increasing the success and completion rates of all students.

This year's We All Rise theme was "Stories That Elevate." Throughout the two days of plenary and breakout sessions, attendees heard stories of perseverance that motivate, stories of challenges and obstacles that prompt educators to examine how to better serve students and communities, stories about innovative best and promising practices, and stories of student experiences. Twenty-two students participated in this year's conference.

The 2022 conference, held in Murfreesboro, was the first conducted in person since 2018. The 2020 biennial conference was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keynote speakers were veteran John Quiñones, veteran ABC News correspondent and host of the network's *What Would You Do?* program, and J. Luke Wood, Ph.D, vice president of student affairs and campus diversity at San Diego.

Mr. Quiñones' presentations focus on his odds-defying journey, celebrate the life-changing power of education, champion the Latino American Dream, and provide thought-provoking insights into human nature and ethical behavior. Dr. Wood's research focuses on factors affecting the success of boys and men of color education, with a specific focus on early childhood education and community colleges.

News From The States –continued

Dr. Jeff McCord Named President of Northeast State Community College



Dr. Jeff McCord

The Tennessee Board of Regents recently announced the appointment of Dr. Jeff McCord as the next president of Northeast State Community College, effective September 30, 2022.

Dr. McCord, previously the commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, is returning to the college he served as a vice

president for seven years prior to his appointment as commissioner. As Northeast State's vice president for economic and workforce development from 2012 to 2019, he led the successful operation and expansion of the college's Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing and provided administrative leadership for the Kingsport Academic Village, among other responsibilities.

He succeeds Dr. Bethany Bullock, who stepped down as Northeast's president in March, and Dr. Connie Marshall, the college's vice president for academic affairs who served as interim president.

Dr. McCord earned a Doctor of Education degree in Learning & Leadership at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Information Systems at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, and a Bachelor of Science in Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

He was appointed commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development by Gov. Bill Lee in January 2019. He served for seven years as Northeast State's vice president for economic and workforce development.

TEXAS

A New State Funding Formula for Texas Community Colleges is on Deck for Legislative Consideration in January 2023

The Texas Commission on Community College Finance established during the 87th Legislature, has been charged with evaluating how Texas community colleges are currently funded via state appropria-

tions, and formulating a recommendation on ways to improve funding. In preparation for legislative convenings in January 2023, the commission forwarded their final report to lawmakers on November 1, 2022.

Historically, Texas has funded its community colleges with three pots of money: local property taxes, student tuition, and a complicated state appropriations funding formula based on contact hours. The formula is a static allocation method that redivides the same pot of money regardless of the progress a community college makes in student completion and achievement. Ultimately, it puts state-funded community colleges in competition against each other for a limited amount of state appropriations.

With the new recommendation, a complete overhaul is proposed to tie state dollars to success and completion measures. This model provides a more predictable funding source and it incentivizes colleges to align with the state's long-term higher education strategic plan, *Building a Talent Strong Texas*.

Dr. Thomas Mills Named President



Dr. Thomas Mills

The Hill College Board of Regents approved the Hill College's 11th president, Dr. Thomas Mills, who has served as Hill College president since August 1, 2022.

Mills brings a wealth of community college experience to the position having spent almost 30 years in Texas and Oklahoma colleges. He most recently served as the vice president of academic affairs at Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus, a position he

held since 2019. Prior to his most recent role, he served in multiple positions during a 16-year career at Seminole State College in Oklahoma. His roles included head men's basketball coach and life science instructor, director of athletics, dean of instructional compliance, and vice president of academic affairs.

Mills , where he received an Associate of Arts degree from Rose State College, followed by a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Central Oklahoma. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Houston, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

Dr. Vincent Solis Named President

Dr. Vincent R. Solis is a life-long educator with almost three decades of service in higher education, was recently appointed president of Brazosport College. He previously served as president for Western Nevada Colege. During his tenure, he served as Chief Academic Officer, Chief Enrollment Officer, and Chief Student Success Officer. Dr. Solis also provided leadership for community outreach ser-

News From The States –continued



Dr. Vincent Solis

vices, athletics, dual enrollment initiatives, auxiliary business services, special projects, construction, facilities management, and student success/engagement/graduation programs.

Dr. Solis began his post-secondary education at Chemeketa Community College and later transitioned to Texas A&M-Kingsville where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology, his Master of Science in Psychology, and his Doctorate in Bilingual Education.

Dr. Justin Lonon Named Chancellor



Dr. Justin H. Lonon

Dr. Justin H. Lonon has provided proven executive and strategic leadership for more than 15 years at Dallas College, guiding the institution to fulfill its mission of “transforming lives and communities through higher education.” Dr. Lonon was selected to be the college’s eighth chancellor in 2022.

Dr. Lonon previously served as executive vice chancellor to provide intentional leadership to the finance, governmental relations, legal, board relations, diversity, equity and inclusion, facilities, human resources, innovation and technology, marketing and communications, safety and security, emergency management, institutional effectiveness and strategic initiatives functional areas.

The Arkansas native earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration from Missouri State University, a master’s degree in public administration from the University of North Texas, and a Doctor in Management degree from the University of Maryland – Global Campus.

Elizabeth Chivers named Senior Director



Ms. Elizabeth Chivers

The Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) welcomed new Senior Director of Strategy and Policy Analysis, Elizabeth Chivers. Her first day was October 10, 2022.

Before joining TACC, Elizabeth spent almost four years with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, where she served in several roles, including program director as part of the data team and most recently as the Senior Director of Strategy & Major Projects.

Ms. Chivers holds a Bachelor of Arts from Central College, a Master’s in Sociology, with a focus on criminology and quantitative and qualitative methodologies from the University of Northern Iowa, and additional doctoral level coursework related to furthering her expertise in qualitative methods, work & organizations, and social psychology from North Carolina State University.

Dr. Minita Ramirez Named President

Dr. Minita Ramirez serves as the president of Laredo College. She has 21 years of experiencing working at TAMIU and while she is the eighth president in the college’s 75-year history, she is the first permanent female president.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Texas A&M International University, an Master of Science in School Administration from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Capella University.

Dr. Elva LeBlanc Named Chancellor



Dr. Elva LeBlanc

Dr. Elva LeBlanc has been named the sole finalist for Chancellor by the Tarrant County College Board of Trustees. In February 2022, she began serving as acting chancellor, and in June began the role as interim chancellor.

Dr. LeBlanc’s first experience with TCC was as a student. She attended Tarrant County Junior College’s Northeast Campus. She went on to earn her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of North Texas, after which she accepted a teaching position at TCC Northeast where she served as a professor and eventually as dean of instruction.

Her leadership experience also includes serving as Austin Community College’s executive vice president for instructional affairs, and Galveston College’s president, where she helped transform the institution into a “Learning College” with a focus on student learning, assessment, and outcomes. In 2006, LeBlanc returned to TCC as president of the Northwest Campus, where she established the Center of Excellence for Aviation, Transportation and Logistics. In 2017, she became executive vice chancellor and provost, overseeing the planning, development, and administration of the college’s core areas of academic and student affairs.

VIRGINIA

Dr. Morrissey Serving as Interim Chancellor



*Dr. Sharon
Morrissey*

Dr. Sharon Morrissey is serving as Interim Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) as the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges relaunches its search for the system's next Chancellor.

Dr. Morrissey has served the VCCS as Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Workforce Programs.

The Virginia State Board for Community Colleges convened a Search Committee in September to relaunch the search for the system's next Chancellor. The search profile was posted in September, with the goal of announcing the next Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System in mid-January, 2023. Appointment will be effective as soon thereafter as possible.

The State Board of the Virginia Community College System is being assisted in the effort by Academic Search. Search consultants from Academic Search include:

- Dr. Shirley Robinson Pippins at shirley.pippins@academicsearch.org
- Dr. Rich Cummins at rich.cummins@academicsearch.org
- consultant Krista Johns at krista.johns@academicsearch.org.



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SACAD gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the annual luncheon

Silver Level



Bronze Level

