



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SUPERINTENDENT-PRESIDENT ELOY O. OAKLEY ELECTED TO BOARD FOR THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Board Member Oakley Will Help Guide Policy for Higher Education's Largest Sector**

WASHINGTON, DC – Eloy O. Oakley, Superintendent-President of the Long Beach Community College District, has been elected to the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), a national organization representing the nation's almost 1,200 two-year colleges and their more than 13 million students.

The new board members were certified during AACC's recent annual meeting in San Francisco, Calif., and will officially take office July 1, serving a three-year term. Comprising 32 members, the AACC board governs association policy and helps guide strategic direction for national advocacy and other key functions of the Washington, D.C.-based organization.

"Being elected to the AACC Board of Directors, as the Institutional At-Large Representative, is a great opportunity to represent the key issues facing community colleges today at a national level," said Superintendent-President Oakley. "I look forward to working with the board on student outcomes, which will improve the completion rates of all students across the nation in obtaining their degrees and certificates, or transferring on time to a four-year institution."

Oakley is best known throughout California and the nation for implementing innovative programs and policies that help students succeed in college. Oakley strongly believes that California's emerging economies demand a workforce with certificates and degrees, with community colleges playing a pivotal role in moving the economy forward. Oakley was appointed as the Superintendent-President of the Long Beach Community College District (LBCCD) in 2007. Since his appointment, he has fostered strong relationships with members of the community, his Board of Trustees and members of the faculty senate, faculty unions and classified staff. Along with his efforts at the local level, Oakley works closely with high ranking presidential officials, federal education experts and other higher education opinion leaders to shape national thought about the need for community colleges to not only serve as open access institutions, but to also produce a greater number of graduates.

The selection of new board members infuses new energy into the association's leadership and comes during a key time for community colleges, say its leaders. "America's community colleges represent the hope of brighter futures for millions of people today and are keeping the dream of postsecondary education affordable," said Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, president of AACC. "Our new board members are joining us during a pivotal time, as community colleges are being asked to double the number of students completing degrees and other postsecondary credentials and to train significantly more workers to meet the needs of employers throughout the nation."

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NEW AACC BOARD MEMBER ELECTED – 2

Institutionally elected board members are:

Ronnie Booth, president, Tri-County Technical College (Pendleton, S.C.)

E. Ann McGee, president, Seminole State College of Florida (Sanford, Fla.)

Dan Phelan, president, Jackson Community College (Jackson, Mich.)

Cheryl Roberts, president and CEO, Chemeketa Community College (Salem, Ore.)

Carol Spalding, president, Rowan Cabarrus Community College (Salisbury, N.C.)

Lori Sundberg, president, Carl Sandburg Community College (Galesburg, Ill.)

The Institutional At-Large representative is: Eloy Oakley, superintendent/president, Long Beach City College (Long Beach, Calif.)

The Public At-Large representative is: Carrie Billy, executive director of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (Alexandria, Va.)

The Affiliated Council representatives are: Chris Bustamante, president, Rio Salado College (Tempe, Ariz.), and Mary Rittling, president, Davidson County Community College (Lexington, N.C.)

Twenty-four board members are elected by AACC's institutional membership (18 institutional representatives and six affiliated council representatives). Six are elected by the board itself (three institutional at-large members and three public at-large members) and represent constituencies such as boards of trustees, business or government.

About AACC

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the American Association of Community Colleges is a national organization representing the nation's close to 1,200 community, junior, and technical colleges and their over 13 million students. Community colleges are the largest sector of higher education, enrolling almost half of all U.S. undergraduates. For more information about AACC and community colleges, visit www.aacc.nche.edu.

About Long Beach City College

Long Beach City College is one of the largest single college districts in the California Community College System. LBCC is a comprehensive college which provides quality educational programs and related students services to nearly 30,000 students pursuing a wide range of degrees, certificates, transfer and other courses of study. LBCC is recognized throughout California and the nation as a leader in efforts to improve college preparation, access and success through the Long Beach College Promise Partnership, with the Long Beach Unified School District and California State University, Long Beach, and its Promise Pathways initiative. The College has received several important recognitions including: finalist for the 2013 Exemplary CEO/Board Award of Excellence from the American Association of Community Colleges, winner of the 2012 RP Group's Excellence in College Research Award for development of a predictive placement model, recognition by the White House Initiative for Excellence in Hispanic Education in 2010 and recipient of the California Community College Chancellor's Office Student Success Award in 2009.

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