



# WORLD FEDERATION OF COLLEGES AND POLYTECHNICS

## NEWSLETTER

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

GEORGE BOGGS, AACC

With the world economy still struggling to recover, job creation and employment have become significant policy issues in countries throughout the world. Consequently our sector of education and training has emerged as a key element in preparing people with the skills they will need for their future careers. Our upcoming *WFCP 2010 World Congress* will be a pivotal opportunity for us to learn from experts and to share best practices on how to assist global recovery through the delivery of education and training.

Whenever I speak to audiences in other countries about challenges that we face in North America, the audience always confirms that they are dealing with the very same issues. In this global society and economy, problems are no longer geographically isolated, and we need opportunities to learn from each other. This is the core mandate of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics and is the driving force behind most of our activities.

In addition to planning the upcoming WFCP 2010 World Congress, we're also working on a proposal for an international Leadership Academy that would provide development and support for college

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leaders. The project is under the leadership of Martin Riordan, the CEO of TAFE Directors Australia and Deputy Chair of the WFCP Board. We look forward to news about WFCP's Leadership Development initiatives after Martin concludes his US Fulbright study this spring.

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#### NEWS AND UPDATES FROM WFCP

##### *WFCP World Congress 2010*

**MARK YOUR CALENDERS** for the upcoming **WFCP 2010 World Congress “Driving Global Recovery through Education”** which will be held on **November 14 & 15, 2010 in Birmingham, England.** Hosted by the Association of Colleges (UK), the event will draw educational leaders from across the globe and it’s a major “must attend” event when it comes to learning about leading trends in technical education and applied learning as well as an excellent opportunity for networking

##### *WFCP Affinity Group on Environmental Sustainability and Renewable Resources*

The WFCP Affinity Group on Environmental Sustainability and Renewable Resources was established at WFCP’s last World Congress in New York City. Colleges and polytechnics of the world share many common challenges and can benefit enormously from exchanging on the great diversity of solutions developed to meet those common challenges.

The World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics encourages the passage of governmental legislation and organizational policies that would effectively help educational institutions and their surrounding communities fulfill their commitments to help create a more sustainable future and reduce greenhouse

gas emissions. Representatives from colleges and polytechnics from around the world are committed to assuming a greater leadership role in order to ensure a sustainable future.

The WFCP Affinity Group on Environmental Sustainability and Renewable Resources is also developing a section in the WFCP website dedicated to sharing links and resources. A listserv has also been established for those working in sustainability education in order to share resources and conduct email discussions.

If you’re interested in signing onto this listserv, please email Gail Mulhall at [gmulhall@acc.ca](mailto:gmulhall@acc.ca). For more information, please visit WFCP website at [www.wfcp.org](http://www.wfcp.org)

#### UPDATES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

##### **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES (AACC)**

In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, Community Colleges in the United States responded quickly by organizing drives to collect donations ranging from cash to basic human-need items such as clothes and toiletries. Students and faculty from our Public Safety programs also traveled to Port Au Prince to assist local authorities.



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While the economy finally appears to be slowly recovering in the US, unemployment remains high. State budgets are still weak and colleges expect further funding cuts for 2010/2011. With mid-term elections looming in 2010, policy makers are working on legislation to encourage job growth. However partisanship is delaying legislative action that could provide much needed federal funding to support job training programs and compensate for state budget cuts. Political delays resulted in the loss of funding for President Obama's American Graduation Initiative, which would have provided \$12 billion to community colleges over a ten-year period. Government proposals continue to emphasize green jobs and health care.

AACC is increasingly focusing on strategies to improve the success rates of students, working with several private funders including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Lumina Foundation for Education. The most visible program is the *Achieving the Dream Initiative*, supported by 19 different private funders. In January 2010, AACC launched its Minority Male Student Success database of promising practices. AACC is also working with the Goldman Sachs Foundation on its 10,000 Small Businesses Initiative that will be based at selected US community colleges. It is a \$500 million five-year initiative intended to catalyze the growth of small businesses.

AACC continues to develop and support our institutional leaders through our Future Leader Institutes and our Presidents Academy. Frequent topics for the Presidents Academy include organizational strategies, resource management,

communication and advocacy, relationships between CEOs and Boards and how one deals with crises. Our Future Leader Institutes address leadership styles, ethics, team building, partnerships with business, supporting diversity, and promoting student success.

#### **ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES TRUSTEES (ACCT)**

Over the past several years, the ACCT Board of Directors has recognized the increasing importance of global interconnectedness and has formed a Global Task Force in order to share knowledge with our international counterparts for mutual benefit. In 2009 alone, ACCT Chair Thomas M. Bennett and ACCT President and CEO J. Noah Brown represented American community college governing boards to several nations, including Australia, Canada, Jordan, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom.

For the first time in 15 years, the Association of Community College Trustees will hold its annual **Leadership Congress** outside of the United States. This year's event will be held this October 20-23 in the thriving metropolis of Toronto, Canada. As a leader in environmentally sustainable energy production and other emerging technologies, Toronto represents the future of industry and is a prime setting for moving technology and education forward into the second decade of the 2000s.

ACCT is pleased to host community college trustees, presidents, and other leaders from throughout the United States and beyond in Toronto to discuss the timely theme of economic reinvigoration and to



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renew our commitment to access, excellence, and student success. ACCT invites global educational leaders to take part in the 2010 ACCT Leadership Congress. For more information, go to [www.acct.org](http://www.acct.org).

#### **.ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES (ACCC)**

ACCC has been successful in pressing for greater Federal Government support for college-based applied research. The last Federal Government budget acknowledges and supports the key role of colleges in supplying the advanced skills and applied research that underpin economic growth and productivity improvement. The budget strengthens the College and Community Innovation Program, a partnership of ACCC with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), in concert with the other federal granting councils.

While Canada's investment in research has been directed overwhelmingly to university-based pure research, colleges embody an enormous concentration of expertise on the application of technology to process improvement and product development. They house centers of excellence and technology access units that support industry partners. In February 2010, ACCC published the findings of a study on college based applied research entitled *Partnerships for Productivity and Advanced Skills: The Role of Colleges in Canada's Innovation System*. The study found that private sector investment in applied and industry-driven research at Canada's colleges, institutes, polytechnics, cégeps and university colleges increased ten-fold over the

last three years. Private sector partnerships with colleges increased seven-fold, with 3,602 companies now participating in applied research projects. Colleges identified 142 different areas of research specialization and 67 institutions have a dedicated applied research division. Visit [www.accc.ca](http://www.accc.ca) for the full report.

This February, Canada's Ministry for Citizenship and Immigration announced the expansion of ACCC's *Canadian Immigration Integration Project (CIIP)*, designed to help newcomers integrate into the Canadian labour market by providing them with valuable counseling before leaving their home country. ACCC will receive an additional \$15 million in funding over the next three years to expand services in India, China and the Philippines, and extend the program's reach to 25 countries worldwide.

Also in partnership with the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, ACCC completed a successful pilot project designed to accelerate processing times and increase visa approval rates for students from India applying to Canadian colleges and institutes. Previously, the approval rate for college student applications was less than 50 percent of those applying to universities. During the pilot phase the approval rate doubled, processing times fell significantly, and the integrity of the process was maintained. As a result, the program has been extended and may be expanded to other countries.



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#### **ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES (AoC)**

The AoC represents colleges in the state sector in England and, through our sister organizations in Wales and Northern Ireland. These colleges educate and train close to three million people per year, including some 56,000 students from outside the UK. Our members have strong international links throughout the world on national, regional, and institutional levels and fully embrace the drive to internationalize the UK College sector. We're excited about hosting the upcoming WFCP 2010 World Congress this coming November. The World Congress represents an ideal forum for practitioners to meet and discuss how they are tackling these key challenges.

Colleges and polytechnics are operating in an increasingly challenging and interesting international environment. Two years ago a report by Warwick University for the UK's Association of Colleges (AoC) revealed that opportunities for recruiting foreign students will decline compared with the market for opening franchises abroad. This shift in operational practice and strategic direction will be best achieved through strong national and international partnerships. It was also argued that, for our students to truly embrace the challenges set by the globalised economy, it is essential that we build in an international dimension to their learning experience.

One initiative that we are extremely keen to discuss at this upcoming WFCP 2010 World Congress is our new International Charter. This scheme represents our drive to support the quality of our members'

international work and develop benchmarks of good practice. The World Congress offers an opportunity to put in place the foundations of delivering this goal.

Our International Director, John Mountford, would be delighted to hear from any international colleagues. Please don't hesitate to contact him at [john.mountford@aac.co.uk](mailto:john.mountford@aac.co.uk) if you'd like any more information about the UK College sector or visit <http://www.aoc.co.uk>

#### **ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (PAVET)**

The region saw the creation of a new Fiji National University (FNU) which was established through the merger of 6 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji. Of these 6, two were body corporate (Fiji Institute of Technology and Fiji School of Medicine) while 4 were parts of government departments (Fiji College of Advanced Education, Fiji College of Agriculture, Lautoka Teachers College, and Fiji School of Nursing). The University commenced operations in January 2010 and will now operate from 16 locations throughout Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees and postgraduate qualifications. The University will comprise of 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities and Education, the College of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health, the College of Engineering, Science and Technology, the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the College of Commerce, Hospitality and Tourism Studies.



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Approximately 25,000 students are expected to pass through the University each year.

Working in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Association of TVET, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to target skills development frameworks in the Pacific. The two year technical assistance program will work with governments of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu countries to analyze demand based policies on the development of skills framework for TVET.

The Pacific Association of TVET would also like to correct its reference in the last WFCP newsletter (December 2009) on the setting up of a Capital Development and Innovation Fund. This is a proposal put forward by the Asian Development Bank and has yet to be funded. PATVET apologizes for any inconvenience caused to interested parties.

#### **INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY AND POLYTECHNICS OF NEW ZEALAND (FORMALLY ITPNZ)**

New Zealand held a general election in November 2008 and replaced a centre-left government which had been in power for 9 years with a centre-right one. Every new government has an urgent list of things it wants to address. With respect to the tertiary education sector, this new government moved quickly to introduce legislation to change the constitution and size of the Councils (Boards) of every polytechnic and institute of technology. The changes will come into effect by May 2010 and will modify the governing bodies of every polytechnic

and institute of technology. These Boards will now consist of 8 people, four of whom (Chair and Deputy Chair included) will be appointed directly by the Minister. The official reason given was to improve the performance of this part of the tertiary sector. But if taking more direct control of the governing bodies is going to improve the performance of one part of the sector...then why not include the universities and improve the entire sector? Significantly the legislation did not include universities. Speculation on the possible answer(s) to that question will have to wait for another newsletter.

#### **COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF POLYTECHNICS IN AFRICA (CAPA)**

The economies of African countries, like those of many others in the developing world, are characterized by a growing population and a general decrease in formal employment. Technical training institutions and other training providers therefore need to empower their trainees with entrepreneurial skills to enable them to fit into the modern world of work. The institutions themselves also need to become more entrepreneurial in their operations and training activities.

This is the reason why CAPA is organizing a practically-oriented workshop on “**The Entrepreneurial Polytechnic**” in Abuja, Nigeria from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. The workshop will equip participants with tools to strategically help them move their institutions higher in the area of Entrepreneurship Education and Training. See you in Abuja!



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#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **“Driving Global Recovery through Education”**, WFCP 2010 World Congress , November 14 & 15, 2010 Birmingham, England
- **“The Entrepreneurial Polytechnic”** in Abuja, Nigeria from 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 Co-hosted by Commonwealth Association Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA) and by Polytechnics in Nigeria.
- **90<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention** , American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC), Seattle, Washington, April 17-20, 2010
- **“Power the Future”** Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) Annual Conference, Niagara, Canada, June 6-8, 2010
- **Reinvigorating the Economy—Renewing Our Commitment to Access, Excellence, and Student Success**, 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Leadership Congress, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), Toronto, Canada, October 20-23, 2010.

#### WFCP MEMBERSHIP

[WWW.WFCP.ORG](http://WWW.WFCP.ORG)

*American Association of Community Colleges*  
[www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu)

*Association of Canadian Community Colleges*  
[www.accc.ca](http://www.accc.ca)

*Association of Colleges (UK)*  
[www.aoc.co.uk](http://www.aoc.co.uk)

*Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa*  
[www.capa-online.org](http://www.capa-online.org)

*Higher Colleges of Technology (United Emirates)*  
[www.hct.ac.ae](http://www.hct.ac.ae)

*Pacific Association of Technical and Vocational education and Training*  
[www.spc.int/PATVET](http://www.spc.int/PATVET)

*Technical and Further Education Directors (Australia)*  
[www.tfda.edu.au](http://www.tfda.edu.au)

*ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES TRUSTEES*  
[www.acct.org](http://www.acct.org)

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