APRIL 22–25, 2017 · NEW ORLEANS, LA

97th AACC Annual Convention

New Orleans, Louisiana / April 22-25, 2017

Submitting a Proposal

All proposals must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (ET) on **October 31, 2016.**

AACC is seeking proposals that reflect the best thinking in the field informed by outcomes that demonstrate success. Proposals must directly relate to one of the seven convention tracks.

Forum Session - Traditional lecture format with question-and-answer sessions. Speakers are requested to use only half of the allocated time for the presentation, including how they wish to engage the AACC community in their work. The second half of the session should focus on conversations about next steps, engagement with the community, and clarification of points raised during the presentation.

Working Session - Creative problem solvers gather to address a specific problem. These sessions focus can focus on organizational strategy, that would benefit from a collective, dynamic solution approach.

Convention Tracks

The 2017 Annual Convention program will focus on seven tracks. The selection of these tracks supports the continued advancement of improving student access, success and completion.

- **College Readiness and Completion**: Two-year colleges have reached the midpoint toward President Obama's goal of increasing completion rates by 50% by 2020. Since 2009, community colleges have had a strong focus on improving K-12 relationships and implementing initiatives to ensure college readiness, redesigning and accelerating

developmental education, focusing on aligning programs to the competencies required in the workforce, and ensuring that comprehensive wrap-around services are available to students in support of them achieving their academic goals. Proposals in this track should focus on successful strategies that colleges have employed to improve college readiness and ensure completion of a credential or degree. Lastly, this category includes advances in OER, learning management systems, or other emerging technologies designed to improve learning outcomes.

- **Faculty Engagement:** Community colleges are "laser-focused" on student success. This work cannot be done without strong faculty leadership.   Proposals in this track will focus on (1) ways to engage faculty (full and part-time) in designing strategies to support student success (2) highlight impactful, scalable practices in the classroom, including the redesign of pedagogy and course content, and (3) showcase faculty professional development programs including onboarding and that provide support throughout employment that leads to improved learning outcomes and success for a diverse student population.

- **The American Skills Gap:** Training must be closely aligned to the needs of business or industry to ensure gainful employment. It is not an option to continue offering programs with extremely low enrollment that produce no graduates. Community colleges must sit at the table with business and industry and truly understand what competencies are required for employability, which also includes soft skills. This track focuses on career pathways, credentialing, business and industry relationships that have led to the redesign of student experiences to incorporate more work-based, hands-on, and technology-enriched learning, and to actively ensure that programs such as competency-based education support credential attainment.

- **Organizational Strategy:** In some cases, the college must undertake redesign efforts in order to achieve the overall goal of supporting students. Proposals submitted in the organizational strategy track should focus on improvements to student services, focus on the utilization of technology to actively communicate with students, envisioning the traditional model of how courses are offered, realignment of staff based upon new educational strategies, and creation, revision, or elimination of policies that serve as barriers to student access and success. Another area of focus is on the importance of using data to support the redesign of courses, programs, departments or the college.

- **Public and Private Investments:** Community colleges cannot increase college completion rates alone. With dwindling state funding and policies that may not clearly align to how college's deliver services today, investment in education is critical. This track will focus on strategies for engaging in policy discussions that ensure affordability, promote college completion, that strengthen transparency and accountability, build coalitions that promote transitions across educational sectors, and ultimately connect education to jobs. This track also includes a focus on fundraising through direct financial gifts or through grants from foundations, and the development of effective partnerships that advance student success.

- **Public Policy and Governance:** This track addresses how to advocate at the local, state, and federal level on significant issues that impact student access and success. Proposals in this

area may focus on strategies to gain buy-in from elected officials, local and/or national think-tanks and other stakeholders on specific policy matters. Public Policy and Governance proposals may also focus on current trends and issues in higher education that have the potential to have major impact on the sector. This track also includes a focus on governance in higher education. In particular, there may be lessons learned that can be shared with new leaders in managing the board/CEO relationship, and what opportunities exist to provide trustees with useful information to advance high-level discussions around college completion.

- **Leadership and High Performance Culture:** With the leadership transitions taking place at all levels of the organization, colleges must invest more in leadership and professional development and support opportunities so that these new leaders are launched into their roles on solid footing. Because some of these new leaders lack significant experience in their new roles, professional development opportunities to educate them in dealing with the complexities of the community college are very important to their success. Proposals in this strand will focus leadership development opportunities with a track record of success. Professional development is also important to the development of a high-performance organizational culture. The culture inspires people to go the extra mile: to make and execute good decisions even when nobody's looking. Share promising practices that have led to increased productivity, cultural change, and overall high performance by members of your college. Programs and services implemented to improve job performance can also be included in this strand.

Diversity, inclusion, and equity are themes that should be embedded into the culture of an institution, and as such are a part of each convention track listed.

Convention Track

Each proposal must directly tie to one of the seven convention tracks. Multiple tracks cannot be selected.

Session Title

A proposal must have a short, specific title that indicates the nature of the presentation and cannot be no more than 80 characters. Catchy titles to attract attendees are encouraged as long as they clearly define the content of the forum session.

Session Description

What is your session about? The session description will be included in the program booklet, so it should be snappy and relevant to the convention theme and track. AACC reserves the right to edit titles and descriptions. Description is limited to 600 characters.

Relevance

Why should this proposal be accepted for the AACC convention agenda? How is it relevant to the sector? Is the proposal providing a solution to some well-known problem? Response limited to 100 characters.

Target Audience

Choose the employee category(ies) that this proposal is targeting as its audience.

Learning Outcomes

The proposal submission should list what convention attendees will learn if they opt to attend the proposed session.

Integration of Technology

Explain how you plan to use technology (if you're planning to use it) in your session. If you are not planning to use technology please type "N/A" in the field.

Audio Visual

Provide any technology needs you might have in this section.

Audio visual is one of the most expensive investments that AACC makes. There are a limited number of rooms with Internet connectivity, DVD players, and sound available. In order to be scheduled for one of these rooms, it is important that the proposal submitter make AV requests at the time of the proposal submission.

If additional AV is required, presenters will have to cover this at their own expense, including Internet or other video needs.

Laptops ARE NOT provided. Presenters should plan to bring their own. If the presenter does not have a laptop, one can be rented by the onsite AV provider.

Session Main Contact and Panelists

All individuals listed within this session will be panelists on the program. The main contact should be the panelist responsible for coordinating all aspects of the session, including communicating with the other panelists.

Sessions can have a maximum of four presenters – NO EXCEPTIONS. Complete contact information is required for all workshop leaders.

Main Contact Responsibilities

The main contact for the session is responsible for the following:

- Identifying all co-presenters and seeking their permission to include them on the proposal submission before completing the AACC process.
- Meeting all established deadlines to make corrections to presenter names and titles.
- Uploading of all handouts and PowerPoint presentations to the identified association website for availability to attendees after the convention.

- Ordering and paying for any AV from the association-approved AV provider (if required).

Agree to Terms and Conditions

All main contacts and panelists must register for the convention or as a speaker if the program is accepted for the program.