



Volume 3, Issue 5

# CC Link



Connecting North Carolina's  
Community College Leaders



## NC Elections Update

Following the November 3 elections, it appears the political dynamics in North Carolina will stay the same with the governor and legislative leadership representing different parties. Democratic Governor Roy Cooper was re-elected, while Republicans held onto majorities in both the NC House (65 Republicans/ 51 Democrats) and NC Senate (28 Republicans/22 Democrats). Leadership in those chambers is also on target to remain the same. On Monday, Rep. Tim Moore was elected to his fourth term as Speaker of the House, tying the record for longest serving Speaker, which was set by Liston Ramsey in the 1980's. Senator Phil Berger is also expected to remain Senate President Pro Tem. The next session of the General Assembly will convene January 13, 2021.

The NCACCT encourages trustees to work with your presidents and fellow board members and reach out to [your elected officials](#) now to congratulate them on their election wins, and begin to build relationships with new legislators.

**Board Chairs Training Session**

On Thursday, November 5, the NCACCT hosted a virtual Zoom training session specifically for Board Chairs. Led by Julie Woodson, NCACCT President/CEO, the meeting included discussion of best practices for leading the board, the importance of legislative advocacy, and hearing tips directly from long-time Board Chairs. 37 of the college chairs were able to participate in this event. Until we can gather together in person, we look forward to holding another targeted virtual training session soon.



### **Surry Community College Trustee Gene Rees**

A 15-year veteran of the Surry Community College Board of Trustees, Gene Rees looks at the community colleges through the perspective of both a business owner and an invested member of his community. [Click here](#) to read more in-depth about Rees's life and career, his advice for new trustees, and his thoughts about the future of our system.



### **2021 NCACCT Law/Legislative Seminar**

The 2021 NCACCT Law/Legislative Seminar is currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 21 - Friday, April 23 at the downtown Raleigh Marriott. As we all know, anything could happen in the next five months. Should government regulations require that we transition the seminar to a virtual event, we will send out communications as soon as

practicable. Regardless of the format, be it face-to-face or screen-to-screen, we plan to have the event during the April 21-23 timeframe - so please mark your calendar now!



### **To Vote or Not to Vote...In Open Session**

After years of representing and advising various public boards, CSH Law attorney Q. Shanté Martin has repeatedly witnessed boards voting on a closed session topic in open session when it's not required, or when it's a violation of another law. The common mantra is, "All votes must take place in open session," but there are only two scenarios where the Open Meetings Law requires local community college boards of trustees to vote in open session. [Click here](#) to learn more about open versus closed session voting rules and how they apply to your board.

This is one in a series of articles written by [NCACCT Business Partners](#). The Business Partner Program is a new initiative launched to give businesses an opportunity to share more information about products and services that are beneficial to community colleges.



### **2021 ACCT National Legislative Summit**

Last week, the ACCT announced that the 2021 Community College National Legislative Summit would be convened online as a virtual event due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic and in compliance with District of Columbia protocols. The virtual NLS will be held from February

8 - 10, 2021 and registration is now open. For more information or to register, [click here](#).



### **President Gossett Receives 2020 NCSU Distinguished Leader Award**

The NC State University College of Education has named Dr. John Gossett, President of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community college, the recipient of the 2020 IE Ready Distinguished Leader Award. This award recognizes an NC State graduate for exceptional leadership within the community college system. [Click here](#) for more about the award and Dr. Gossett's many contributions to North Carolina's colleges.

### **Furniture Academy at CVCC**

Business North Carolina magazine recently profiled the success of the Furniture Academy at Catawba Valley Community College. In the last six years, this program has trained hundreds of students for high-paying jobs in the local furniture industry. [Click here](#) to read more about the academy concept and the elements that have contributed to its success.

### **System President Search**

The process is moving forward in the search for the next President of the NC Community College System. The State Board's Search Committee has narrowed the pool to two finalists. NCACCT Chairman Sam Dickens and Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, President of the NC Association of Community College Presidents, will be engaged in interviews of the two finalists, and they will be able to offer input in the selection. The State Board's goal is to have a President hired before the General Assembly reconvenes on Jan. 13, 2021.

## Across the Nation

- [Pandemic lessons from community colleges](#) - Inside Higher Ed
- [It pays to be an apprentice: 63% more](#) - NPR
- [Covid pushing students to drop out, with devastating consequences](#) - USA

Today



CC Link is a bi-monthly newsletter from NCACCT that features news from our colleges, items of interest and updates from NCACCT. We welcome news items from Trustees, Presidents, Public Information Officers and others in the community college system who have updates that would be beneficial to share. Please send any articles or updates to [Caroline Hipple](#) to be included in future newsletters.

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