

## Ten Takeaways

### 9/14/18 ICCTA Trustees Roundtable Compiled by ICCTA vice president Bob Thompson

#### **Q. How are community colleges managing to expand programs, meet community needs, and increase enrollment?**

1. Workforce partnerships and multicraft programs seem to be most successful offerings when enrollment is down. Many trustees expanded on the tremendous success with their electrical, HVAC and welding programs, particularly when they worked together with area employers.
2. Manufacturing 'Boot Camp' was considered as a new offering in regions where there are many jobs to be filled and many potential workers who could use a one-day workshop to fine-tune their presentations to prospective employers in job interviews.
3. Many trustees agreed that having an active president in their communities makes a big difference, with employers partnering with the college and with community leaders to steer traditional and non-traditional students to the college for education/training.
4. Re-selling efforts at the high school level has paid off for enrollment of graduating seniors at their local community college.
5. Keeping athletic teams filled with local talent earns community colleges some traditional student enrollment from athletic leaders in area high schools which, in turn, may help promote the college with attendance at sporting events by the student athlete's parents, grandparents and other family members.

#### **Q. Are any community colleges exploring the concept of free tuition/promise programs?**

1. Several colleges offer trustee and presidential scholarship programs to high-achieving high school graduates.
2. Tuition waivers have been offered at several colleges to the top 1 - 5% of area high school graduates.
3. ICCTA legislative counsel Jessica Nardulli explained that there have been conversations about legislation regarding free tuition in Illinois, but there is nothing on the horizon.
4. William Rainey Harper College offers a Promise program for students who meet a demanding criteria beginning with their freshman year, including grade and attendance requirements and service contributions to their community. A total of \$10 million was raised for the effort, and more money continues to be sought to afford the program. McHenry County College had a successful Promise program for five years.
5. Opposition to Promise programs was voiced at the Roundtable as well. Offering something for free may, in fact, devalue the product. If a college offers free tuition, would the perception be that the college curriculum really isn't all that valuable? Some trustees thought students need some "skin in the game" or else their community college experience wouldn't be as meaningful.