

NACCE Expands Entrepreneurial College of the Future

In observance of April as Community College Month, NACCE publicly launched its Entrepreneurial College of the Future initiative. Spawned at its 2021 annual conference, the new pilot program has steadily gained traction, securing more than \$300,000 for student-led entrepreneurial endeavors. Led by 15 of the country's leading community colleges, the initiative harnesses teams of three leaders at each college who work together to tackle challenges and opportunities on their campuses and in their communities.



Through this national collaboration, a team of leading experts in ideation, fundraising, student and employee engagement, and workforce development will identify best innovative practices that will be shared through NACCE's network of hundreds of colleges reaching over four million students.

The 15 community colleges selected for the pilot include:

- Barstow Community College (CA)
- City College of San Francisco (CA)
- Houston Community College (TX)
- Indian River State College (FL)
- Laramie County Community College (WY)
- Northeast Community College (NE)
- Ocean County College (NJ)
- Pasco-Hernando State College (FL)
- Patrick & Henry Community College (VA)
- Pellissippi State Community College (TN)
- Pima Community College (AZ)
- Prince George's Community College (MD)
- Roane State Community College (TN)
- SUNY Rockland Community College (NY)
- Vance-Granville Community College (NC)

Comprehensive Database Available

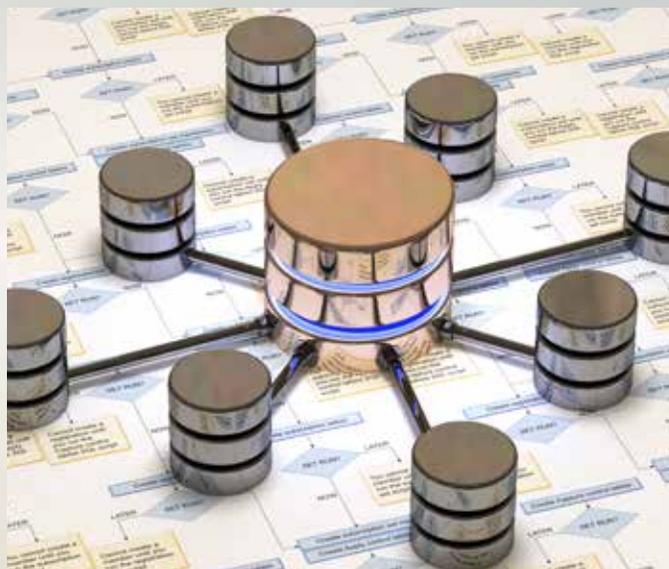
The Entrepreneurial College of the Future pilot also includes a group of 65 colleges that will co-create a **comprehensive database of innovative approaches** that will be available to all NACCE members. The database will be unveiled in October. Specific focus areas of the pilot include:

- **Workforce Development** – aligning with employer needs and creating one's own job
- **Fundraising** – moving beyond scholarships to big community-driven initiatives
- **Student Success** – enhancing enrollment and retention
- **Silo Busting** – increasing engagement and retention of college personnel

"The Entrepreneurial College of the Future serves as a national resource for best practices and as a driver of innovation in communities and community colleges," said NACCE President and CEO Rebecca Corbin. "This new pilot will drive innovation at all levels of entrepreneurial ecosystems across the country. It also charts NACCE's course of growth through innovation for the next three years as we work to increase our membership."

Key Foundation Supporters

The initiative is supported by the Everyday Entrepreneur Venture Fund (EEVF), which provides seed funding to student entrepreneurs served by community colleges, and the Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation,



which sponsors both the "Pitch for the Skilled Trades" competition and the new "Pitch for the Foundation." Both competitions will take place at NACCE's Annual Conference October 2-5 and will offer a total of \$300,000 in prizes for innovative ideas pitched by community college teams.

Participating colleges receive free consulting, mentoring from experts, and travel and conference support valued at more than \$25,000 for each college. In addition, they will receive:

- **Facilitated monthly calls with ideation and development experts;**
- **Travel and registration support for college teams to NACCE conferences;**
- **Opportunity to advance to the semi-finals of the "Pitch for the Foundation"; and**
- **Match funding for the Everyday Entrepreneur Venture Fund**

"Serving as both a community college president and earlier in my career as an advancement professional, I see the tremendous power in bringing entrepreneurial mindset and action into the problem-solving arena for community colleges," said John Rainone, Ed.D., president of Dabney Lancaster Community College (becoming Mountain Gateway Community College 7/1/22) and a member of the foundation leadership team. "While enrollments nationwide may be down, opportunity abounds. The Entrepreneurial College of the Future pilot will help us create the way forward." ●

For more information about the Entrepreneurial College of the Future, visit: <https://www.nacce.com/ECOF>.



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