From the Desk of the President

Recently, Hector Ortiz, HACC Board of Trustee, and I met with many of our federal legislators in Washington, D.C.. Of the many community college federal legislative priorities we discussed with our legislators and/or their staff, we focused our conversations on the following four initiatives:

1. **Strengthen PELL Grants**
   - In 2016-17, more than 58,000 Pennsylvanian community college students received Pell Grants, totaling over $185 million – an average of $3,180 per student. In 2017-18, more than 9,000 HACC students received Pell Grants, totaling over $27,207,306.00 an average of $2,998.05 per student.
   - Expand eligibility for students enrolled in short-term, workforce-oriented programs
   - Index Pell Grants to inflation
   - Facilitate postsecondary education for qualified incarcerated individuals

2. **Invest in Education and Workforce Development**
   - Strengthen the Pell Grant program by providing additional aid to students and provide additional funding for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Federal Work Study, to name a few
   - Increase funding for institutional aid programs, including: Title III – Strengthening Institutions program and other programs serving traditionally underrepresented populations
   - Increase funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, adult basic and literacy education state grants and state grants under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
3. **Reauthorize the Higher Education Act**
   - Oppose proposed federal financial penalties based on student borrowing for this would inevitably result in either increased costs or reduced educational services to students
   - Maintain subsidized federal loans for low-income students
   - Create a national student unit record data system to track completion and earnings

4. **Support Dreamers**
   - Enact the Dream Act to provide Dreamers with permanent legal status. The Administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) rescission (which has been blocked by federal courts) leaves thousands of young people, including many students, in a precarious status. The Dream Act is needed to permanently enable them to reach their full potential, benefitting the entire nation in the process

From information gained within the last few days, the White House may be planning executive actions on program-level outcomes data and student loan risk sharing, as well as on free speech, perhaps around the release of its proposed budget next week. To learn more, click [here](#).

In addition to these conversations, I have been actively involved in speaking with our local elected officials. Since the Governor’s budget was revealed several weeks ago, I have been working with them and their aids to help them better understand why community colleges need to receive an increase in operating funds since the Governor did not put an increase in his budget recommendation. As you would expect, our legislators are very complimentary of our programs and services and are listening carefully to my and the PA Commission for Community Colleges call for additional funding. In fact, several of them want to visit our campuses again to see many of our exciting initiatives, especially in the workforce development area. You can read my Op-Ed piece discussing why I believe additional funds need to be directed to community colleges as it was published in PennLive this week [here](#).

As you know, because of declining enrollments over the past decade, the 2019-20 budget process has challenged us with a proposed major operating deficit of $9.7 million. Since I was hired in 2011, we have made many adjustments to the number of College employees and operations to keep pace with our shrinking student population. Over the next two years, we will be required to make even more adjustments.

Based on enrollment projections, along with inflationary pressures, we (and many of our sister community colleges) expect to see continued strain on our operating budgets for the next several years.

In light of our current financial situation, the HACC Board of Trustees has directed me to significantly reduce the proposed operating deficit for the next three years and provide them with a plan to align the College’s operations
with our declining enrollments. As I prepare to deliver a 2019-20 budget to the Trustees on April 2 for their approval, here are a few things we have been doing to address the headwinds affecting the College:

- The Cabinet and leaders of the administrative professional organization, classified employee organization, faculty and students are evaluating potential options to suggest and/or implement.
- We continue to work through our outsourcing analysis (a brief update is included below).
- The Next Generation Taskforce recommendations are being refined to be presented to Cabinet.
- We are evaluating the best use of and the occupancy at all of our campuses.
- We continue to explore strategic partnerships and alliances within our defined market area.

Our goal is for HACC to continue to serve our ever-changing community and students who are looking to us in new and different ways. Therefore, I hope you will join me in being a vital part of the process to re-imagine our role and align our delivery methods with the needs of our students and the community we serve.

**Results from HACC’s Effective Communication Survey Are Promising**

As part of HACC’s Journey to Excellence strategic plan, the Effective Communication Workgroup was formed in November 2017 to examine communication practices and advance effective communication within the institution. The charge of the workgroup was to diagnose the status of communications at the College.

After reviewing existing data from the 2015 strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis and employee engagement surveys, the workgroup concluded that the information was not sufficient to draw significant conclusions on the status of communication at HACC. The workgroup decided to create its own survey with the following objectives in mind:

1. Investigate whether there is an internal communication gap amongst employees
2. Determine perceptions of how the College communicates information
3. Identify how employees receive information

The survey was conducted between July and September 2018 and the summary of analysis, findings, and recommendations pleasantly surprised the workgroup. Among the findings, **47 percent of 332 respondents indicated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the communications** at the College. The respondents valued the various communication channels and **86 percent rated their immediate supervisor’s communications as excellent, very good or good.**

While the report brought to the workgroup’s attention necessary improvements, especially **in the amount of emails generated**, the results of the survey also reflected **a culture of information flow** and **a desire to learn how to communicate better.**

Kudos to the Effective Communication Workgroup for their hard work in developing the survey tool, collecting sound data, and analyzing the results!

- Cavil Anderson, Ph.D., Chair
- Jennifer Billman, Faculty Organization representative
- Nakia Eckert Classified Employee Organization (CEO) representative
- Valerie Gray, Faculty Organization representative
- Ivan Quinones, Administrative and Professional Employees Organization (APO) representative

To read the entire report, please go to [Report on the Effective Communication Survey 2018-19](#)
**International Women’s Day: Ski’s Reflections**

As we celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8, I cannot think of a more appropriate time for the HACC community to continue our push for true equality and a more gender-balanced world.

More broadly, March is also Women’s History Month – a time of celebration and recognition of women and their contributions to history, culture and the American society that we all value and appreciate today. While we are not the only country to celebrate Women’s History Month, the contributions of women in shaping the world’s most free society cannot be overstated. Women have been the backbone of American history, with a particular emphasis on the social, political and economic systems that are the foundation of the American dream. The struggle for equality for women continues to drive social justice movements worldwide.

The fact that true equality remains elusive in America, to me, is unforgiveable. The struggle for equal pay, equal recognition and equal standing in our society are goals for which we all must strive. All women – including single mothers, transgender women, White women, women in all segments of the working world and women of color – share the unbreakable bond of sisterhood.

We must continuously celebrate the contributions and fight for the equality of women – every day of the year. The legacies of Marian Anderson, Maya Angelou, Mary McLeod Bethune, Shirley Chisholm, Geraldine Ferraro, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Helen Keller, Lucretia Mott, Della Reese, Sally Ride, Sacagawea, Gloria Steinem and countless others who blazed a trail of greatness call on us to use our collective energies to create and protect an America that values and protects true equality for women.

The journey to a perfect, fair and equitable society has not been an easy one. However, I firmly believe that we will continue to resist the actions and beliefs of individuals who desire to revert back to the most painful aspects of our shared history that are characterized by the marginalization of women. Through this resistance, my belief is that we will, one day, realize the promise stated in the U.S. Constitution that every one of us, as Americans, will have true, inalienable rights to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” While we have made tremendous strides toward ensuring that WE embrace OUR collective history, we have MUCH to do to truly recognize women’s history as OUR history. HACC will remain committed to equality for every member of OUR community college.

I call on all men to stand side by side with the women in our lives, and in society as a whole, to forge a tomorrow where true equality is not bound by gender or any other characteristic that differentiates us.

**Next Generation Taskforce Update**

The Next Generation Taskforce has been meeting regularly over the past month and will be presenting Cabinet and the constituency leaders with their recommendations of how we can enhance our operations and serve our students at the end of the month. They will then make a similar presentation to the Board of Trustees in April.
**Outsourcing Update**

**Custodial** – The custodial request for proposal (RFP) was advertised on PennBID, Pennsylvania's Electronic Document & Bid Management Program, and received 13 initial interested vendors. The vendors will be touring our facilities through next week and will be given the opportunity to ask specific questions. Bid proposals are due April 2, 2019. Once received, the review committee, led by John Corrigan, business director, Lebanon Campus, will review the proposals. If we receive bids that meet our requested specifications, we will begin the process of vendor due diligence (reference checks, customer site visits, follow-up questions). We anticipate this process will take four to six weeks. We expect to have a recommendation to management by June 30, 2019.

**Payroll Services** – The payroll RFP is still in the data gathering phase. Colleagues from payroll, human resources and procurement are pulling information together to draft an RFP. As we did in the custodial process, after we complete the draft payroll RFP, we will solicit feedback from the payroll department employees. We anticipate it will take an additional four to six weeks until we have completed the RFP draft. We expect based on this timeframe, we won’t make a decision on the payroll outsourcing until the end of summer term.

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**Celebrating the Past and Preparing for our Future**

HACC’s [2015-19 Journey to Excellence Strategic Plan](#) will end on June 30, 2019, marking a milestone in the College’s illustrious history. The College has much to celebrate as we recognize all that has been accomplished during this four-year period to better serve our students and our communities.

Before the current plan is officially closed, you will be hearing and reading about the successes that have been achieved over the last four years. These successes would not have been possible without YOU, the creative and committed employees of HACC.

Even as we celebrate the past, we are planning for HACC’s future. For the 2019-22 strategic plan, we will continue to focus on our four strategic goals:

1. Advance Academic Excellence
2. Foster Student Success
3. Strengthen Institutional Sustainability
4. Instill Inclusivity

Currently, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis is under development. The president’s Cabinet, with insight from constituency leaders, the Next Generation Taskforce, and the Strategic Planning Committee, will use the information collected from the SWOT and other sources to develop the objectives for the 2019-22 strategic plan. The new strategic plan will be unveiled with the start of the upcoming fiscal year.

These are exciting – and challenging – times for the College. The new strategic plan gives HACC the opportunity to reinvent itself the leader in online education, a partner to business and industry in providing workforce development, and a haven for all learners as they seek a path to a more prosperous life. We look forward to the next three years and beyond as we create opportunities and transform lives – together.
Math Success
Kudos to the math faculty for reinventing developmental education with the creation of Math 090! After a successful pilot of Math 281 last year, we’ve rolled out Math 090 for all new students this fall as a way to accelerate their progress through developmental math requirements. This course takes the best of the Emporium model, in which students work through material at their own pace, with the structure of scheduled class times, a knowledgeable faculty member to answer questions, and periodic assessments. The success rates of the 725 new students who benefited in Fall 2018 are highlighted below:

- Twenty-four percent of students are now eligible for Math 103, College Algebra
- Students who would have placed into Math 008 (the lowest level) were able to benefit significantly: 62 percent were able to progress two or more classes, and as a whole, they saved a net of 178 credit hours, which is just under $40,000 in tuition
- Forty-eight percent of all Math 090 students saved credits by advancing two or more classes
- One student placed into Math 119, Pre-Calculus, as a result of Math 090

Radiologic Technology Program Gains Reaccreditation for Eight Years!

The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) welcomed the opportunity to evaluate the associate degree radiography program sponsored by Harrisburg Area Community College (Lancaster Campus). The JRCERT is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for the accreditation of traditional and distance delivery educational programs in radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance, and medical dosimetry. Specialized accreditation awarded by the JRCERT offers institutions significant value by providing peer evaluation and by assuring the public of quality professional education in the radiologic sciences.

The continuing accreditation status of the program was considered at the Jan. 22, 2019 meeting of JRCERT. The program was evaluated according to the Standards for an Accredited Educational Program in Radiography (2014).

The JRCERT award is below:

The maximum duration that may be awarded by JRCERT in this category is eight years.

An interim report will be required. The projected date for submission of the interim report is the third quarter of 2022. The JRCERT will provide program officials adequate notice of the due date for submission of the interim report. Based on the interim report, the JRCERT will determine if the accreditation award of eight years will be maintained or reduced and the continuing accreditation process expedited.

If the accreditation award is maintained, the next site visit is tentatively scheduled for the third quarter of 2026.

The program is advised that consistent with JRCERT Policy 11.600, the JRCERT reserves the right to conduct unannounced site visits of accredited programs. The sponsoring institution would be responsible for the expenses of any on-site evaluation.
The JRCERT Directors and staff congratulate you and the program faculty for achieving the maximum award of accreditation from the JRCERT and wish you continuing success in your efforts to provide a quality educational program.

**The new HACC Spirit Shop is now live!**

You asked for it and we listened! Your HACC bookstore has partnered with a third party vendor to offer even more HACC merchandise. Whether you’re looking for something for yourself or need a HACC imprinted gift, click on [https://haccspiritshop.merchorders.com/](https://haccspiritshop.merchorders.com/) and start shopping!

Check out our in-store selection at [www.bookstore.hacc.edu](http://www.bookstore.hacc.edu) or stop in any of our campus stores. **HACC Yeah!**

**Wintertime Safety – Don’t be a victim of slips, trips, and falls**

We’re not out of the woods yet, even though our local groundhog prognosticator says spring is approaching. If previous winters are any indication, there is still plenty of snow and ice to come our way. Here are 10 tips to help keep you on your feet and avoid unplanned encounters with the ground when the weather is bad.

1. Walk slowly and carefully. Wear boots or other slip-resistant footwear  
2. Use special care when getting in and out of vehicles. Use the vehicle for support if you need to do so  
3. Watch for slippery floors when you enter any building or home  
4. Try to avoid carrying items, or walking with your hands in your pockets; this can reduce your ability to catch yourself if you lose your balance. Instead, carry a backpack if you have one  
5. Watch out for black ice  
6. Tap your foot on potentially slick areas to see if the areas are slippery  
7. Walk as flat-footed as possible in very icy areas  
8. Avoid uneven surfaces if possible. Avoid steps or curbs with ice on them  
10. Remember: Ice and snow mean “take it slow!”

*(Courtesy of UPMC Health Beat, “10 Tips to Avoid Winter Slips, Trips, and Falls” - January 2015)*

Please contact Brian Watts, Health and Wellness Coordinator at [bjwatts@hacc.edu](mailto:bjwatts@hacc.edu) or x214228 if you have any questions or need to submit an injury report. Remember, an injury report must be submitted to the Office of Human Resources within 24 hours for any employee injured while at work.
Office365 Conversion Update

In October 2018, the College migrated our email system to the cloud. Our cloud based email system is known as Office365 and it is hosted through Microsoft at no charge to the College. The advantages of using the cloud for emails include high availability and reliability.

When a change like this occurs, there are some features gained, changed and some lost. Any features that are provided through the email client (such as Outlook), should remain the same. The only features that would change are features of the email system itself.

During our recent conversion to Office365, the Office of Information Services and Technologies (OIST) created a handout to addresses the changes and limitations we were aware of at that time.

Microsoft periodically changes policies, procedures, and limitations related to Office365.

OIST discovered a limitation that was not included in the Office365 handout. This limitation places a 500 recipient limit of a single email message. This does not prevent a user from sending a message to more than 500 people at a time, it does require the user to use an email distribution group when exceeding 500 recipients. An email distribution group is only counted as one recipient as long as the group is not expanded in the TO, CC or BCC field.

Example, a user can send an email message using the “Full Time Faculty” distribution group (which contains 417 email addresses) which would only count as one recipient toward the 500 recipient limit for that message. That user could add up to 499 more recipients to that message before reaching the limit (916 total people receiving that email message).

What happens if a user needs to send an email to more than 500 recipients and an email distribution list does not exist for the recipients selected?

OIST is investigating the feasibility of using third party providers such as Vertical Response (already used to communicate with HACC students). We anticipate the need to send a single message to more than 500 recipients should be minimal when taking into account all existing email distribution lists in use today.
Kudos are submitted to the Office of the President, regularly. If you would like to recognize someone, or an entire team of colleagues, send the kudo to presidentski@hacc.edu by the 20th of the month.

★ Thank you Gettysburg Campus staff and faculty Rebecca Abell, Judy Alder, David Bailey, Diane Bittle, Dianne Brooks, Holly Cieri, Donneva Crowll, Matt Ebaugh, Mary Ann Filler, Jennifer Gonzales, Amanda Hartzel, Bill Hartzell, Shannon Harvey, Rich Hebel, Tonay Heckman-Hann, Ken Hinkle, Lori Hockley, Patarin Hoffman, Cinnamon Hosterman, Andrea Lazarus, Tom Long, Sara Maines, Lorie McKee, Sherry Moschella, Kathy Pasewark, Kathleen Pratt, Irene Rainville, Crystal Renzo, Jason Rosenberry, Bonnie Showvaker, Ken Shur, Dory Uhlman, Bonnie Walker, Cathy Wilt, Gina Xenos and Martin Yespy for volunteering to be at key locations throughout the Campus before the start of each class period during the first week of classes. This warm welcome provides an opportunity to make personal connections with students by assisting them in locating their classroom.

★ Kudos to Gettysburg Campus academic dean Dory Uhlman and Gettysburg Campus history professors Dr. Charlie Fennell and Michael McCloskey for partnering with the Seminary Ridge Museum to present “Pennsylvania African-Americans in the Fight for Freedom.” The presentation illuminated some of the finer points of the African-American experience in the Civil War. Gettysburg Campus students were offered vouchers to visit the Seminary Ridge Museum, where the first floor is dedicated to this topic.

★ Representatives from Pella Windows, Brian Baculik, Plant Manager; Josh Hamilton, Human Resources Manager and Dirk Baugher, Senior Engineering Manager recently visited the Gettysburg Campus Mechatronics Labs to present Gettysburg Campus academic dean Dory Uhlman and Mechatronics faculty members Rich Hebel and Rob Fergesen with a $10,000 grant from the Pella Rollscreen Foundation in support of the Gettysburg Campus Mechatronics Excellence Fund.

★ Kudos to Nattalie Castro, coordinator, Career Readiness, Workforce Development and Continuing Education and STEP instructor Diane Crawford for the successful launch of the first high school STEP Academy Program at Gettysburg Campus. Twenty eight students from Littlestown and Biglerville High Schools are enrolled in the program.

★ Kudos to the Gettysburg campus Welcome Center team, under the leadership of Cinnamon Hosterman, campus director, Enrollment Services, for initiating a soft launch of the new cashiering structure. Through this soft launch, they are working to identify areas of concern and proactively address them prior to the full scale role out in the near future. Cinnamon and the Gettysburg campus Welcome Center team will provide their Finance colleagues with sound recommendations for improvements in advance of the full role out.

★ Kudos to the Gettysburg campus Advising team, under the leadership of Howard Alexander, who will be using the Navigate tool in order to provide students with the ability to schedule advising appointments from the comfort of their home, office, car, etc. This online tool is similar to the one used via Starfish. Howard and the Gettysburg Campus advising team will provide valuable feedback to EAB and the team working to refine this tool.

★ Kudos to Bob Stakem, director, Public Safety Center, for partnering with the Adams County Tech Prep Consortium and Fairfield High School to develop an Adams County high school EMT class that will begin at Fairfield High School in the Fall of 2019. Students from Bermudian, Biglerville, Delone, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Littlestown, and New Oxford will be eligible to participate.

★ Kudos to Melissa Harden, Tim Barshinger, Etta Drabick, Cindy Sierk, Nakia Eckert, Marcia Waters, and Chala Thomas for their work to bring Lancaster’s first Engineering Career Day to campus on Friday, Feb. 22. This event brought Lancaster County high school students together to learn more about engineering careers.
Kudos to Connie Dagen and the nursing faculty at Lancaster for their work adjusting clinical schedules as a result of the imminent closure of UPMC Pinnacle Lancaster.

Kudos to Monica Filburn, Nursing Department chair, the campus-nursing directors: Trudy Bauer, Cindy Donnell, Mark Lieb, and Jill Lott, along with all the nursing faculty on their recent successful program accreditation visit! The success is due to the hard work in gathering and reporting information on an outstanding program.

Thank you to The Harrisburg campus facilities team, Andrew Groff, Brian Cigic, Corey Parson, Dan Mowery, Dave Fortney, Erik Hansbury, Nelson Megbaje, Nolan Straub, Ray Wiersma, Sean Beaver, Todd Gilbert, Steve Moore, Brett Thompson, Jim Staub, Jay Lohman, and Scott Morrison for their hard work to keep the campus clean and safe during the various snow events. They have come in early, worked long hours, and stayed late into the night to ensure our campus is safe and ready for students and employees.

Kudos to Jeff Gerstein, director, Student Development and Multicultural Programs, and Megan Kopitsky, SGA president for organizing and supporting the Day of Service event in honor of MLK Day on Jan. 24. Seven hundred care packages were assembled to support students affected by wildfires at Butte College in Oroville, CA.

Kudos to Christine Cappuzzo, director of Counseling, Advising, Career and Transfer Services, Harrisburg Campus, for her leadership role in the Harrisburg Campus’ new food voucher program that was supported by a grant from the HACC Foundation. Students are beginning to benefit from this new initiative to combat food insecurity.

Kudos to Mallary Desantis, assistant professor of Mathematics, Rick Albright, associate dean of Academic Affairs and Kevin Talhelm, Math tutor, for their efforts in implementing the new Math 090 tutoring center in Hall Tech that supports 14 sections of Math 090.

Kudos to Lori Friedlander, technical director, for going above and beyond in her work. She is always willing to help with internal and external events including five events in February.

Kudos to Trevor Stynes, systems administrator, Office of Information Services and Technology (OIST), for his efforts in making the virtual learning roadshow last month a huge success. Trevor was able to meet with faculty that work remotely to deploy new laptops and was able to provide an exceptional quality of service fielding questions and providing support for everyone that needed it in an efficient and timely manner.

Kudos to Lisa Campbell, director, Live at Rose Lehrman Artist Series, for her execution of community partnerships with Bethesda Mission and the Latino Hispanic American Community Center (LHACC) during a recent residency with Los Angeles based dance troop, Contra Tiempo.

Kudos to Chris Fuller, director, OIST, computing and media support, for being the chief information officer’s designee.

Kudos to Dave Shaffer, manager, network and data center operations, OIST, for agreeing to be the interim director of Information Technology.
Kudos to Kevin Nutt, data security administrator, OIST, for his monthly cyber security email newsletters

Thank you to The Technology Investment Committee for their efforts to review and recommend technology requests at the College

Kudos to Holly Bailor, recruiter, Office of Human Resources, for her efforts with moving the recruitment process forward in our search for a director of Information Technology

Quote
"The world is moving so fast these days that the man who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it." – Elbert Hubbard

Books That I Am Currently Reading or Have Read:

- Black Swan Green by David Mitchell
- Mindset by Carl Dweck
- The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck by Mark Manson
- Yo! Yes? By Chris Raschka

How to Handle Freedom of Information Inquiries

When you receive telephone inquiries related to Right to Know or Freedom of Information Act requests, please do the following:

1. Direct the caller to our website: www.hacc.edu
2. Ask the caller to type in “Right to Know” in the search function to find the Web page about the Right to Know process (Note: This is the direct link to the Web page: http://www.hacc.edu/AboutHACC/Administration/RighttoKnow/index.cfm)
3. Ask the caller to follow the detailed instructions on the website
4. Tell the caller that his or her request will be handled when he or she follows the detailed instructions
5. Do not engage in any conversation beyond this, because it might be used against the College later – especially if you share erroneous information with the caller

When you receive email inquiries related to Right to Know or Freedom of Information Act requests, please do the following:

1. Forward the email to righttoknow@hacc.edu (this email address is also listed on http://www.hacc.edu/AboutHACC/Administration/RighttoKnow/index.cfm)
2. Do not respond to the writer

Upon receipt of these telephone and email inquiries, the Office of College Advancement team will handle them and confer with the necessary individuals.

Do You Have Questions About The Organizational Transformation?

I welcome feedback from the College community on ideas that would enhance our efficiency and effectiveness. If you have feedback, please submit it directly by clicking here.

Do You Have News For The Next Ski Gram?

If you would like me to share your news in an upcoming issue of the Ski Gram, you may submit it anytime by clicking here.
Publicize YOUR Events!

HACC students and employees are more than books and the classroom. When planning events, remember to submit a HACC Communications Hub request for coverage. The form can be found under the “Office of College Advancement & HACC Foundation” portal on the home page of myHACC or you can access it by clicking here.

For More Information:

If you have any questions about any of the information contained within this Ski Gram please contact me at PresidentSki@hacc.edu. Thank you!