

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ACCJC Awarded \$400,000 Grant from College Futures Foundation to Advance its  
Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) is pleased to announce the award of a \$400,000 grant from College Futures Foundation to advance its Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project launched this fall.

For the 2024-2025 academic year, ACCJC will work closely with member institutions on Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy. ACCJC believes that clearly sharing institutional outcomes required in its Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards (graduation, persistence, retention, transfer), along with consumer-based social mobility outcomes in transparent public-facing dashboards and websites, can help to refine college efforts and increase transparency for students, parents, and the public. Perhaps as important, we believe that this work can highlight the positive impact of our institutions' high-value programs and offerings.

The College Futures Foundation grant will help fund:

- a series of regional convenings for member institution's faculty, staff, administrators, and governing board members;
- the development of a student return on investment (ROI) and social mobility metric or set of metrics that can be used in accreditation processes;
- the development of a template (or set of templates) that could publicly visualize college data in a way that highlights institutional opportunities and success in continuous improvement in student achievement; and
- the creation of cohorts of institutions with similar resources and outcomes to support them in elevating data and outcomes as a priority for the institution.

*"Ultimately, ACCJC's goal is to amplify the value of higher education, the work of our member institutions, and the amazing social mobility of students within programs at ACCJC member institutions,"* said ACCJC President Dr. Mac Powell.

For the regional convenings, the College Futures Foundation grant will help subsidize the participation of California public community colleges. Other ACCJC member institutions' participation will be funded through an internal grant. *"ACCJC is committed to supporting its member institutions in their work to achieve equitable student outcomes, and we are pleased to be able to offset the costs of attending these professional development convenings,"* stated Dr. Kathleen Burke, Commission Chair. Moreover, *"the cohort model will be designed to foster innovation and collaboration among our members and highlight the critical role two-year institutions serve in the higher education landscape."*

To begin developing the ROI and social mobility metrics and data-visualization templates, ACCJC is engaging in a series of exploratory conversations with institutional leaders, foundations, think tanks, state agencies, and federal policy leaders to explore the strengths and weaknesses of existing resources. More information about the initial research and plans for project development will be available soon.

*“College Futures strongly believes that postsecondary education is a primary lever in improving economic mobility for underserved learners. We are pleased that the largest accreditor of community and junior colleges is working to advance measures of economic mobility amongst its member institutions,”* said Eloy Oakley, College Futures Foundation President.

*“On behalf of the Commission and staff, I would like to thank College Futures Foundation for their commitment to increasing postsecondary completion, their generous support of ACCJC and the Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project; and for believing in the role that accreditation can play in higher education innovation,”* said President Powell. ACCJC looks forward to engaging with member institutions and other partners in support of this work and highlighting the value of two-year institutions.

For more information about ACCJC and its current initiatives, visit [www.accjc.org](http://www.accjc.org).

For more information about College Futures Foundation, visit [www.collegefutures.org](http://www.collegefutures.org).

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The **Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)** is a federally recognized accrediting commission whose institutional accreditation is accepted as a reliable assurance of quality, allowing institutions of higher education access to federal financial aid. ACCJC is unique in its concentration on public and private two-year degree granting institutions, its geographic range, and its membership. Its current (2024) 137 public, non-profit, and for-profit member institutions span California, Hawai'i, New York, and the western Pacific and include the largest public higher education system in the US, serving 2 million students, and one of the nation's smallest colleges, with 28 students.

ACCJC supports its member institutions to advance educational quality and student learning and achievement. This collaboration fosters institutional excellence and continuous improvement through innovation, self-analysis, peer review, and application of standards. To learn more, visit [www.accjc.org](http://www.accjc.org).

**College Futures Foundation** envisions a California where postsecondary education advances racial, social, and economic equity, unlocking upward mobility now and for generations to come. Our mission is to increase postsecondary completion for learners who are underserved. We center learners and their aspirations and needs on the path to achieving their educational goals.

Established in 2005, College Futures Foundation uses a wide variety of human and financial resources and tools—including its average endowment of over \$500 million and approximately \$20 million in grants annually—to accomplish its mission.

College Futures Foundation: More graduates for a thriving California.

Visit us at [www.collegefutures.org](http://www.collegefutures.org).