

## Dr. Catherine Webb of ACCJC Selected for the Aspen Institute's Rising Presidents Fellowship

*One of 31 Leaders Selected for Prestigious Program Developing the  
Next Generation of Community College Leaders*

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**Sacramento, CA, August 22, 2022** – The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) announced today that Dr. Catherine Webb, Vice President at the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), is one of 31 leaders selected for the 2022-23 class of the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship. This program, delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, prepares the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.

Many sitting community college presidents plan to retire in the next decade, creating vacancies and an opportunity to diversify college leadership. Aspen Presidential Fellows represent the next generation of college leadership: this incoming class of Aspen Rising Presidents Fellows is 70 percent female, and 54 percent are people of color. The institutions they represent are also diverse, located in 16 states, from small rural colleges to large urban campuses. The fellows, selected through a competitive process, will work closely with highly accomplished community college presidents, Aspen leaders, and Stanford University faculty over ten months to learn from field-leading research, define and assess student success at their colleges, and clarify their visions for excellent and equitable outcomes for students while in college and after they graduate.

“The leaders that come through the Rising Presidents Fellowship continually inspire us,” said Josh Wyner, executive director of the College Excellence Program. “We are motivated by the dedication and expertise that our fellows bring to advancing excellence and equity on their campuses, and we look forward to supporting their work.”

“Dr. Webb is an engaged, steadfast leader who brings an incredibly thoughtful approach to her work supporting the Commission and all of ACCJC’s 136 institutions. Her passion for organizational development and commitment to student success will be strong drivers in her work as a fellow. I am very excited for her participation in the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship and for the transformative experiences that will benefit her and the stakeholders she serves,” said Dr. Mac Powell, ACCJC president.

Rising Presidents Fellows aspire to enter a college presidency within five years of completing the fellowship. As fellows, they join a network of over 300 forward-thinking peers—122 of whom are



sitting college presidents—who are applying grounded and innovative strategies to meet student success challenges in their colleges.

The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship is made possible by the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation College Futures Foundation, Joyce Foundation, and JPMorgan Chase.

For bios and photos of all 31 leaders, visit [higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org/meet-the-rising-presidents-fellows](https://higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org/meet-the-rising-presidents-fellows).

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*The **Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)** accredits 136 public and private two-year colleges in California, Hawai'i, the Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.*

*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).*

**The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program** supports colleges and universities in their quest to achieve a higher standard of excellence, delivering credentials that unlock life-changing careers and strengthen our economy, society, and democracy. We know it takes visionary college leaders to achieve this higher standard and we make it our mission to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and research-backed tools to inspire change, shift practice, and advance the capacity of colleges to deliver excellent and equitable student outcomes. For more information, visit [our website](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

**The Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative (SELI)** advances the critical cause of diversity, equity and inclusion in learning science and postsecondary education leadership. SELI's research practice partnership with the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has enabled faculty from the Stanford Graduate Schools of Education, Business and Engineering to host and prepare 200 Aspen Presidential Fellows to lead U.S. community colleges for student success in graduation and preparation for workforce advancement. For more information, visit [seli.stanford.edu](https://seli.stanford.edu).

**The Aspen Institute** is a global nonprofit organization committed to realizing a free, just, and equitable society. Founded in 1949, the Institute drives change through dialogue, leadership, and action to help solve the most important challenges facing the United States and the world. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the Institute has a campus in Aspen, Colorado, and an international network of partners. Learn more at [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).