

NEW YORK COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

353 Broadway, T9 | Albany, NY 12246 | nycct@suny.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: George Cushman

(301) 922-1816

New York Community College Trustees Welcome State Leaders to 72nd Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs

SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr., ACCT Leadership, and State Policymakers to Join Trustees, September 16–18, for “The Future is Now: Community Colleges at the Center of Change”

ALBANY, N.Y. — September 16-18, 2026 — The New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) will host its 72nd Annual Conference, “The Future is Now: Community Colleges at the Center of Change,” September 16–18, 2026, at the Saratoga Casino Hotel in Saratoga Springs. Bringing together trustees, presidents, and senior leadership from SUNY and CUNY community colleges across the state, the conference focuses on ways community colleges can meet the challenges posed by a rapidly changing educational landscape.

This year’s program features SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr., who will address the full body of trustees, along with a delegation from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), led by CEO and President Jee Hang Lee. An Advocacy Panel will bring trustees together with state policymakers, including Danielle McMullen, Assistant Secretary for Higher Education in the Office of Governor Kathy Hochul; Will Schwartz, SUNY Vice Chancellor for Government Relations; Dermot Smyth, CUNY Vice Chancellor for Government Affairs; Evan Stavisky, Founding Partner and President of The Parkside Group; and Stephen Acquario, Executive Director of the NYS Association of Counties.

Community College trustees connect each college with its service area, comprising one or more counties. Each college board includes trustees appointed by the governor, others appointed by the home county (or counties), and a student trustee. NYCCT offers yearly training at the annual conference and frequent educational modules on line to ensure that all trustees have access to the knowledge needed to educate nearly 45 percent of all SUNY students—approximately 174,000 aspiring New Yorkers.

Highlights of the three-day program include:

- **State advocacy for community colleges** — A dedicated Advocacy Panel will bring trustees together with state policymakers on funding and policy priorities, underscoring the role trustees play in advancing community colleges’ mission across New York State.
- **Innovation and the future of higher education** — Sessions on responsible and ethical AI in higher education, plus a closing panel discussion, “The Future is Now: Community Colleges at the Center of Change,” featuring CUNY and SUNY system leadership, will explore how community colleges are adapting to meet the needs of students and employers.

The conference will close Friday evening with the NYCCT Annual Awards Reception & Banquet, recognizing outstanding trustees, presidents, and community college advocates from across the state.

About NYCCT

New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) is a statewide nonprofit consortium representing trustees from the 30 SUNY and 7 CUNY community colleges across New York State. NYCCT provides advocacy, education, and networking opportunities to strengthen community college governance and advance access to affordable, high-quality higher education for all New Yorkers.

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