

# CATYC NEWSLETTER



FALL 2020



## PURPOSE

- To work with The Higher Learning Commission in the promotion of standards, practices, and policies for two-year colleges.
- To promote effective communication and articulation of the membership represented by this Council with the American Association of Community Colleges and other educational agencies.
- To support appropriate legislation to improve programs and services in two-year colleges.
- To sponsor workshops, seminars, and academies on appropriate topics of interest where differing views, methodologies, and interests that support the goals of The Higher Learning Commission may be shared.
- To promote research and assist the member institutions in meeting change in two-year college education.
- To provide information and encourage community services among member institutions and communities interested in two-year college education.

## NEWS INSIDE

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The Council on Accreditation for Two-Years Colleges (CATYC) is a 19-state organization with potentially 450 community college members focused on two-year education and accreditation standards, practices and policies.

## MESSAGE FROM CATYC PRESIDENT, DR. AYSIA JOHNSTON

It has certainly been a challenging year for all of us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many other events, the Council on Accreditation for Two Year Colleges (CATYC) members have not been able to meet face-to-face and unfortunately were not able to wish George Knox, our long time Executive Director, a happy retirement in-person. That does not change the fact we will greatly miss George, his wife Carol, and their passion to make CATYC the best it could be. We wish George and Carol a happy and fulfilling retirement, and hope you will visit us at the next CATYC conference in 2021.

Thank you to Mark Watkins, our past CATYC President, for working with the Executive Committee virtually to move forward with the organizational duties and develop strategies to make CATYC more relevant for our members. With Mark's leadership we were able to hire a new Executive Director. We are

extremely pleased Dr. Barbara Jones began serving as Executive Director of CATYC October 1. Dr Jones has great ideas on how we can provide applicable information concerning accreditation and other professional development topics for our membership. She hit the ground running and has submitted a proposal for the Annual HLC Conference; where a panel of administrators will present information concerning the organization, developed a membership survey, and updated the website.

I am excited about CATYC's future as we continue to serve our colleges, increase professional development opportunities, and grow our membership.

**Current CATYC President,  
Aysia Johnston  
President  
Fort Scott Community College  
Fort Scott, Kansas**



The Council of Accreditation for Two-Year Colleges (CATYC) is the only organization dedicated to serving the accreditation and quality needs of two-year colleges located in the United States. CATYC provides members with one-on-one access to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) staff through its annual conference and through direct Council liaison with HLC's president. The organization provides effective communication between membership and the Council leadership on issues impacting member institutions and to advocate for legislation and policies impacting community colleges. Member institutions are eligible to apply for research grants through the Council to develop innovative strategies to better serve students and their success.

## MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING CATYC PRESIDENT, DR. MARK WATKINS

The Council on Accreditation for Two Year Colleges (CATYC) announces the retirement of its Executive Director, Dr. George Knox. George began his work as a CATYC board member in 2001 while President at Cloud County Community College located in Concordia, Kansas. Upon transitioning to President of Labette Community College in Parsons, Kansas, George continued to support CATYC as both board member and two years as the Executive Board President. George again transitioned to provide Presidential leadership at Independence Community College in Independence, Kansas for two years. In 2012, George shifted his CATYC work to serve as the Executive Director and continued until now as he retires.

George has provided excellent leadership in Kansas, Wisconsin, and North Carolina in many capacities. He began his career as a traffic homicide investigator for the Hollywood Police Department in Florida for 12 years. He used his knowledge and experience to teach criminal law for Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in Asheville, NC. As George developed his appreciation of a community college education for students, he moved to Morgantown, NC to become the Department Chair and head of the police academy at Western Piedmont Community College. Another opportunity enabled George to serve as the Dean of Planning and Learning at Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac, WI. George had one more swing back through Murphy, NC to be the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs before arriving in Kansas.



***George has provided excellent leadership in Kansas, Wisconsin, and North Carolina in many capacities.”***

George and his wife, Carol, look forward to spending more time with his family and sailing. In honor for George’s dedicated service to CATYC, a Research Grant will be called, the “George Knox Research Grant.” We thank him for his service!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Dr. Barbara Jones**

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## MESSAGE FROM CATYC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR. BARBARA JONES

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Council on Accreditation for Two Year Colleges (CATYC), we want to welcome you back to the fall 2020 semester. The pandemic has created new and unusual circumstances and challenges for all of us in our daily, work, college/school lives. However, "We are all in this together."

As noted above, Dr. George Knox stepped down as the CATYC Executive Director effective September 30th. He has been a champion for our students, community colleges, and for the CATYC organization for many years. He continues his service to higher education as the interim President at Independence Community College, in Kansas. We are grateful for the strong foundation and plans he and the Executive Committee have established, which will serve as the guide for the future of our organization.

I also write to introduce myself as the new Executive Director. My name is Barbara Jones. I retired in January 2020 after 29 years in higher education (and 20+ years in healthcare). Most recently, I had the honor to serve as the President of South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, AR for almost 11 years. Accreditation has always been an important part of my career, as I have served as a SACS peer reviewer, HLC Peer Corps, and also as a programmatic reviewer for NAACLS and CAPTE. I am excited to serve as the new Executive Director of CATYC.

To strengthen our organization, we need your help, participation, and assistance. An email was sent out in October with a link to the CATYC Membership Survey. If you have completed this survey, thank you. If not, please go this link <https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/OQF3vnvA> and complete it as soon as possible. It should only take about 15 minutes. The Executive Committee will use the information gathered to develop plans and strategies for the future of the CATYC organization.

I have met many of you over the course of my 29 years in higher education. I am excited to renew friendships and to meet many more of you in my new role. Working with the membership and Board, we hope to make the organization even stronger and more beneficial to our member institutions.

# CATYC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## **CATYC President**

### **Alysia Johnston, President**

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## **CATYC President-Elect**

### **Dr. Charles Johnson, President**

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## **CATYC Vice-President**

### **Dr. Bruce Moses, Vice Chancellor for Educational Services and Institutional Integrity**

HLC-Accreditation Liaison Officer  
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## **CATYC Past President**

### **Dr. Mark Watkins, President**

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### **Megan Fugate**

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## **Dr. Jackie Elliott, President**

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## **Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson, President**

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## **Dr. Betty Young, President**

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## **Two member-at-large vacancies**



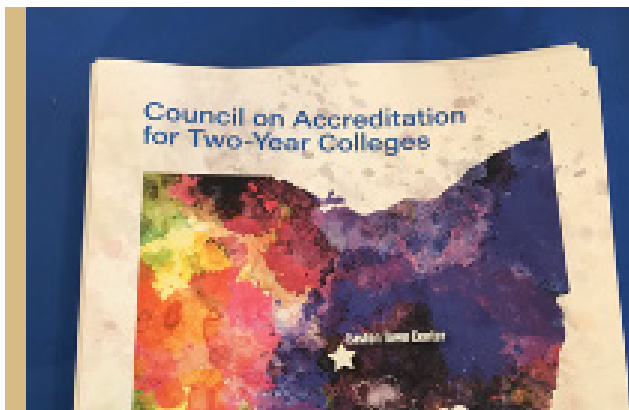
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the  
Date**

## FALL 2020 CATYC WEBINAR (BY ZOOM)

**December 9, 2020 | 2:00 PM (Central)**

December's webinar will feature Dr. Karen Solomon, Vice President for Accreditation Relations and Director of Standard Pathway at the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). She will provide an update of HLC policy changes that have occurred since the U.S. Department of Education regulations went into effect on July 1, 2020 and will also highlight the 2021 virtual HLC Annual Conference. Time will be provided for Q and A. Please have your questions ready and mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 2P (central time). A Zoom Link will be sent to members.

## FALL 2021 CATYC CONFERENCE



The CATYC Annual Conference scheduled for September 2020, was cancelled due to the pandemic. Plans are in the works for fall 2021 at the same location – Kansas City, MO. More information will be forthcoming on proposal submissions for the 2021 Conference. In lieu of the 2020 conference, we will host two Zoom webinars with accreditation updates for our members on December 9, 2020 and February 17, 2021 (2P Central Time). More information will be sent to current members by email.



### **2021 - Kansas City, Missouri**

September 12-14, Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Kansas City-International Airport

### **2022 - Phoenix, Arizona**

### **2023 - Indianapolis, Indiana**



THE 2021 HLC ANNUAL CONFERENCE HAS BEEN MOVED TO A VIRTUAL FORMAT AND THE DATES HAVE CHANGED. THE NEW DATES HAVE CHANGED TO APRIL 5-9.

## SUGGESTED READINGS FROM HLC

- [Compilation of 2020 Trends](#)
- [Partners for Transformation: Beyond the Horizon and the Future of Higher Education](#)
- [Student Success: Changing the Conversation](#)
- [Student Success: Differentiation](#)
- [Student Success: Glossary of Terms](#)
- [Summary of HLC Thought Papers](#)

### CATYC Membership

Thank you for being a member of CATYC. It has been a wonderful source of professional development, networking, and advocacy related to regional accreditation for many of our community colleges for years. If your institution has renewed your membership this year – Thank you! If not, please remember to send your renewal to: **Megan Fugate, CATYC, 200 South 14th Street, Parsons, KS 67357**. Also, please tell your peers of the value of our organization. We continue to strive to keep our dues affordable because we understand the ongoing budget challenges our community colleges face every day.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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CATYC thanks Labette Community College for serving as the operating location for the CATYC organization.