

CATYC



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FALL, 2023

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## NEWS INSIDE

CATYC Purposes

Message from CATYC  
President, Dr. Paul  
Watson II

Message from CATYC  
Past President, Dr.  
Bruce Moses

Message from CATYC  
Executive Director, Dr.  
Barbara Jones

CATYC 2023 Conference  
Highlights

CATYC 2023 Awards

- George Knox  
Research Grant

CATYC 2024 Conference

Future Conferences

Upcoming CATYC  
activities

HLC Updates

CATYC Membership  
information

CATYC Executive  
Committee

Council on Accreditation for Two Year Colleges (CATYC)

## Newsletter

### CATYC PURPOSE

- *To work with accrediting agencies 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 accrediting agencies 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.*

The Council on Accreditation for Two-Years Colleges (CATYC) is a 19-state organization with potentially 400 community college members focused on two-year education and accreditation standards, practices, and policies.

## MESSAGE FROM CATYC PRESIDENT

Dr. Paul R. Watson II, President,  
Kellogg Community College



Dear CATYC members,

I'm looking forward to serving as the president for CATYC in 2023-2024. Before I joined the executive team, I found the connections that I made in CATYC to be relevant and timely as I sought to gain wisdom and perspective in supporting my own institution's accreditation efforts.

As I shared during our time in Arizona recently, my goal has always been to be competitively great, always working towards being better tomorrow. And, after having the opportunity to chat with several of you, I can see that you embrace being in the thick of it. That is, you want to be in the proverbial ring, in your own coliseum facing down your next challenge.

Why do you and I do that? Why do we choose to dream, to aspire to be better, to have the audacity to hope for the best, to throw everything we have towards our goal? I believe it is because we have a deeply held passion and a commitment that we are doing something truly life-altering such as assisting our students in their most humbling but potentially exhilarating moments. More than a job or career, working in higher education is a vocation. It is a calling that is worthy of acclaim and requires great dedication.

Indeed, regardless of the circumstances you have faced and will be faced with over your careers, always remember these words from Brene Brown, "The willingness to show up changes us...it makes us a little braver each time." Keep showing up and showing out. Our students need it. Indeed, you are not merely impacting single lives, you are impacting institutional legacies.

I am excited to work with you and my fellow executive council members to showcase CATYC's value proposition to member institutions by continuing to increase the organization's use as a platform to share and disseminate relevant and timely information. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding CATYC that you would like to share with us, please email Barbara Jones, CATYC Executive Director, at [brjones079@gmail.com](mailto:brjones079@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Watson II

## MESSAGE FROM CATYC PAST PRESIDENT

*Dr. Bruce Moses, President  
Allen County Community College*



As the out-going President of The Council on Accreditation for Two-Year Colleges (CATYC), I am proud to have served to help enhance the quality and accessibility of education in 19 states represented by CATYC. CATYC is an organization with a noble mission, aiming to advance two-year college education through a range of initiatives. It was a pleasure to have been at the forefront of accreditation efforts through CATYC and as a Higher Learning Commission Peer Corp Member.

One of the key objectives of CATYC is to work closely with accrediting agencies to promote accreditation standards, practices, and policies for two-year colleges. During this past year CATYC has continued to ensure that two-year colleges maintain high academic standards and deliver quality education and collaborate with accrediting agencies. Another vital role that CATYC plays is promoting effective communication and articulation between its member institutions and organizations like the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

CATYC sponsors workshops, seminars, and academies on topics of interest to two-year colleges. These events provide a platform for educators to share different views, methodologies, and interests that align with the goals of accrediting agencies. By fostering a culture of open dialogue and learning, CATYC has played a pivotal role in the professional development of educators across the member institutions.

Change is inevitable in education, and it is important to stay ahead of the curve. CATYC has also promoted research and initiatives that help member institutions adapt to evolving educational trends and best practices. By doing so, they have ensured that two-year colleges remain relevant and provide students with the most up-to-date education.

I have enjoyed serving as President of CATYC this past year. It is my hope that my leadership and commitment to the organization's purposes has helped to advance accreditation standards, promote communication and advocacy, and fostered professional development. CATYC has been a driving force in two-year college education. The organization's mission to enhance education quality has found another true champion in Dr. Paul Watson, as the 2023-2024 CATYC president, whose vision and dedication will continue to impact higher education through the work of CATYC.

Respectfully,  
Bruce

The Council of Accreditation for Two-Year Colleges (CATYC) is the only higher education organization dedicated to serving the accreditation and quality needs of two-year colleges located in the United States. CATYC provides members with access to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) staff through its annual conference. 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 awards and research grants through the Council to develop innovative strategies to better serve our students and support their success.

## 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 thank you for your continued membership and interest in CATYC. In 2023 CATYC provided various professional development opportunities such as webinars, our annual conference, and helpful information to our membership. We continue to investigate ways to expand our focus on higher education accreditation.

We were excited to convene our 2023 Annual CATYC Conference - Explore New Horizons in Higher Education - in Tempe, AZ this past October. Rio Salado College, part of the Maricopa College System, was the host conference site.

We had some wonderful presentations related to accreditation, assessment, curriculum transformation, program review, cocurricular assessment, faculty evaluation, and more. Dr. Kate Smith, President, Rio Salado College, and Dr. Jackie Elliott, President, Central Arizona College, provided interesting and relevant keynote presentations. Dr. Karen Solomon, HLC Vice-President and Chief Transformation Officer, gave an informative presentation on trends and the future of higher education accreditation. At the Conference, our Annual Innovation Award was presented to Carl Albert State College, Poteau, OK, on their co-curricular assessment project involving PTK - *The Viking Network: A Legacy of Leadership and Teamwork*. They involved their students in the assessment planning process. You can learn more about our conference in the articles that follow.

Please mark your calendars for our 2024 Annual Conference to be held on September 22-24th in Livonia, Michigan (Detroit area) at the Schoolcraft College VisTa Conference Center. Please be sure to contact me with questions or ideas (brjones079@gmail.com). Working with members, accrediting agencies, and the CATYC Executive Committee, we hope to make CATYC stronger and more beneficial to you, our member institutions.

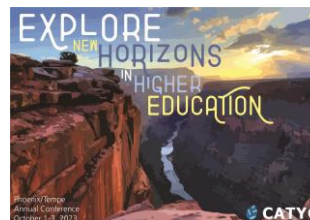
*Barbara*

## Many thanks to our CATYC Development and Communication Committee

### REGIONS:

1. OH, WV: William Taylor, Terra State Community College, Fremont, OH
2. IN, IL: Karen Weiss, Southeastern Illinois College, Harrisburg, IL
3. MI, WI: Dr. Paul Watson, Kellogg Community College, Kellogg, MI
4. MN, ND, SD: Tamara Dewes, Western Dakota Technical College,
5. IA, NB: Tad Pfeifer, Mid-Plains Community College, North Platte, NE
6. KS, MO: Sharon Kibbe, Highland Community College, Highland, KS
7. OK, AR: Al Massri, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Bentonville, AR
8. WY, CO: Dr. Darren Divine, Casper College, Casper, WY
9. NM, AZ: Wendy Weeks, Pima Community College, Tucson, AZ

### CATYC Fall 2023 Conference Focuses on "New Horizons" In Higher Education



TEMPE, AZ - The Council on Accreditation for Two-Year Colleges held a three-day event titled "Explore New Horizons in Higher Education" from October 1-3 in Tempe at Rio Salado College. It was a beautiful venue and a wonderful location with some of the best views and sunsets in the country! Allen Community College President and outgoing CATYC President, Dr. Bruce Moses, along with local Rio Salado College President, Dr. Kate Smith, hosted the conference.

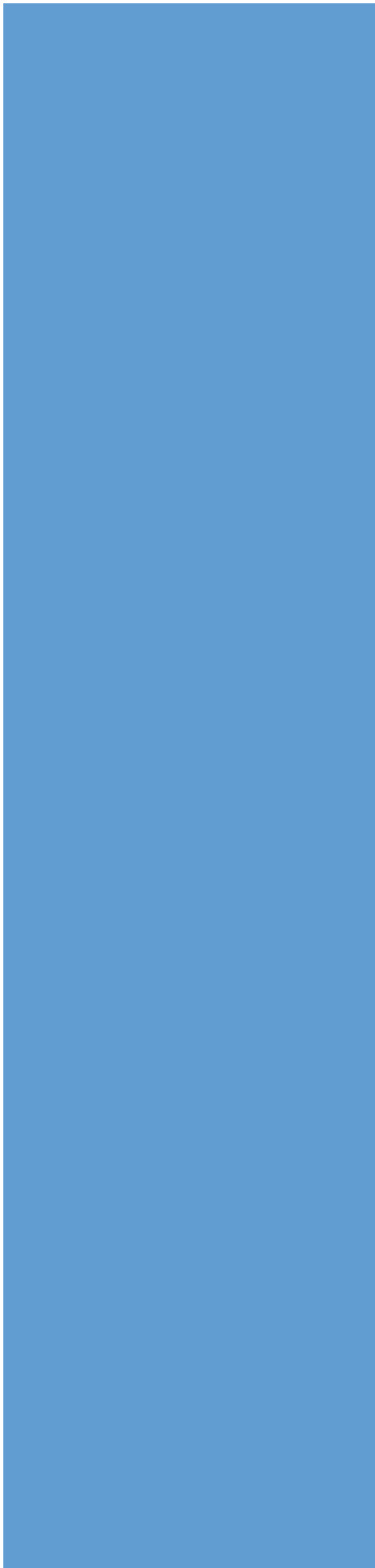
Dr. Bruce Moses opened the 2023 CATYC Conference followed by a welcome from President Kate Smith. Additionally, President Smith presented on behalf of the Maricopa Community Colleges and Chancellor Stephen Gonzales, highlighting the colleges' workforce development programs that prepare students to quickly fill critical vacancies in the semiconductor, aerospace, artificial intelligence, and construction industries— and continue their higher education.

“We are honored CATYC chose Rio Salado to host the 2023 conference and gave us an opportunity to share information about the extraordinary work being done at the Maricopa Community Colleges,” said President Smith. “We admire the leadership, advocacy and learning that CATYC provides for its members.”

Among the many programs President Smith highlighted were Rio Salado's [National Science Foundation Semiconductor Nano Knows No Limits](#) and *Microelectronics and Nanomanufacturing Certificate* for veterans, adult education and dual enrollment students— and the Maricopa Community College's [Quick Start Program](#); a 10-day, immersive training program designed to help students fill in-demand general (industrial) technician semiconductor jobs.

“This is an exciting time for students, employers and community colleges,” said President Smith. “There is an extremely high demand for skilled workers, which can lead to promising socio-economic opportunities for students, families, and their communities. We are honored to partner with industry and other educational institutions to create short-term training for students to fill entry-level jobs—and pathways to help them continue their higher education journey.”

Fifty participants from 13 of the 19-state region attended interactive sessions focused on various challenges and issues facing colleges in fulfilling their missions and meeting accreditation standards, including assessment of learning, student engagement and success, co-curricular education, faculty evaluation, developing leadership teams, and workforce development.



Dr. Jackie Elliott, President, Central Arizona College, opened the Monday session presenting about what is “on the horizon” for accreditation in higher education. She spoke about the Credential Project, HLC innovative accreditations, and policy changes.



Dr. Kate Smith, President, Rio Salado College, opened the Tuesday session with a presentation about the various workforce-driven initiatives in the Maricopa Community College system.

### **GEORGE KNOX RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT**

**Dr. April Teske, Shawnee Community College**



Shawnee Community College (SCC), Ullin, Illinois, was chosen by the Executive Committee of the Council on Accreditation for Two-Year Colleges (CATYC) to receive the CATYC George Knox Research Grant for 2023-2024. Dr. April Teske, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, submitted the proposal. The research grant was established to benefit the institution, recipient, the organization, and higher education by supporting institutional improvements and best practices related to accreditation. The grant funds up to \$1500 for the project. The CATYC Research Grant will assist SCC to foster ownership and increase engagement of students and employees with the Student Success element of the SCCES institutional effectiveness framework. Key Performance Indicators identified by the Student Affairs staff will be displayed to illustrate the status, stimulate problem-solving and goal setting, and facilitate open communication, transparency, and accountability. Dr. Teske will present the project findings at the CATYC Annual Conference in Livonia, MI, in September 2024. Members interested in applying for the 2024 George Knox Research Grant are encouraged to apply - proposal deadline is March 15, 2024.



**Megan Fugate, CATYC Executive Assistant, recognized for 11 years in service to CATYC.**

Megan Fugate has served as the interface between member colleges and CATYC for 11 years. She is the person who sends the emails and invoices, accepts the registrations, memberships, and payments, pays the bills, keeps the minutes, helps to organize the conference, and so much more. I have enjoyed working with her over the past 3 years. She will continue at Labette Community College, serving as their Director of Financial Aid - a big job. We wish her well and thank her again for all she has done for the CATYC organization for so many years.

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT



Outgoing CATYC President,  
Dr. Bruce Moses with  
incoming CATYC President,  
Dr. Paul Watson

## More From the CATYC Fall Conference



Dr. Jason Brown, Pima Community College

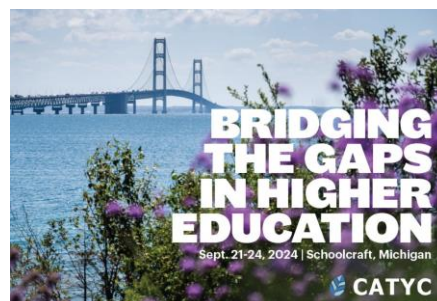


Justin Jutting and Tami Dewes,  
West Dakota Technical College



Autumn Porter and Darci McFail, State  
Fair Community College

The 2024 CATYC Annual Conference is scheduled for September 22-24 in Livonia, Michigan (Detroit area) at the Schoolcraft College VisTa Conference Center.





### **2024 CATYC Conference Information:**

Date: September 21-24, 2024

Location: Schoolcraft College, Livonia, MI (Detroit area)

Hotel: Hyatt Place Detroit/Livonia 192300 Haggertry RD  
Livonia, MI 48152

Phone : 1-734-953-9224

Group sales reservation:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DETZL/G-CATC>

### **FUTURE CATYC CONFERENCES**

2025 - St. Louis, Missouri area

### **Higher Learning Commission Updates**

The 2024 HLC Annual Conference is April 13-16, 2024.



**Information from CATYC Conference presentation of Dr. Karen J. Solomon, Ed.D., HLC Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer**

#### **Revision of the Criterion for Accreditation for 2025**

- Last major revision in 2013
- Streamline/simplify the current model wherever possible
- Revised Criteria will support the incorporation of differential, risk-based, and student success elements
- Timeline - Board of Trustees 1st reading Jan 2024 - Public Comment and Focus Groups Spring 2024 - Board Adoption on 2nd reading June 2024 - Revised Criteria in effect Sept 2025 Faculty Qualifications Policy Changes
- Draft was circulated for public comment along with the proposed policy changes
- Proposed policy change is under review; will be considered for adoption by HLC Board of Trustees in November 2023
- The proposed policy change would revise the faculty qualification provision in HLC's Assumed Practices to emphasize that an institution must establish and maintain reasonable policies and procedures for determining that instructors are qualified
- Proposed policy change specifies that an institution can deem instructors qualified on the basis of a variety of factors, including but not limited to: • academic credentials, • progress towards academic credentials, • equivalent experience, • or some combination thereof

#### **Distance Education: New Guidance**

- Based on new guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), HLC revised its levels of approval for distance education and the thresholds for when institutions should apply for approval.
- There will be two levels of approval (rather than three), either for distance education courses, or for distance education courses and programs.
- The levels of approval incorporate the new thresholds for approval required by the guidance: (1) 50% of courses or (2) 50% of students, in addition to (3) 50% of a program

- Institutions previously approved to offer distance education courses and programs: This change has no impact.
- Institutions previously approved to offer distance education courses and 1-3 programs: Because these institutions have been approved for the distance education “program” threshold listed above, HLC has already updated their stipulations to indicate they are approved to offer distance education courses and programs. No action required.
- Institutions previously approved for distance education courses only or not approved to offer any distance education: We encourage these institutions to review their distance education offerings and ensure they have the necessary approvals based on our new requirements.
- USDE Waivers have ended - must get approval from accreditor for distance education programs
- Follow policy regarding Regular and Substantive Interaction

#### **Prison Education**

- New USDE regulations allow Pell Grant eligibility for students who are confined or incarcerated and enrolled in prison education programs
- Definition of “additional location” now includes various types of correctional facilities
- Complex federal regulation
- HLC webinar to be posted on website on October 12, 2023 with updated webinar following the November Board meeting to be posted November 16, 2023
- Engagement with corrections (aka oversight entity)
- Additional location application to HLC for first two locations (regardless of method of delivery)
- Application to USDE to offer an approved PEP
- HLC site visits required within one year after initiating the PEP at the first two locations
- After two years, oversight entity completes evaluation and determines college’s final approval as a PEP

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

- 2023: Credential Lab introduced
- 9/1/2025: Revised Criteria in effect
- 2025: Shifting focus to risk-based and differential with increased emphasis on student success outcomes

Suggested Readings from HLC - The Leaflet: September 2023  
<https://www.hlcommission.org/News-Reports/leaflet.html>

HLC publishes a document each year on emerging trends in higher education. The 2023 HLC Trends report is available at:  
[https://download.hlcommission.org/HLCTrends\\_INF.pdf](https://download.hlcommission.org/HLCTrends_INF.pdf)

## UPCOMING CATYC EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

- **CATYC Executive Committee vacancy** - contact Dr. Barbara Jones, if interested.
- **Webinars: PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING CATYC ZOOM WEBINARS (MEMBERS ONLY):**  
**Wednesday, December 6th, 2023 1-2:30P Central time**  
**Title: Strategic Budgeting**  
**Panel presenters:**  
Dr. Jackie Elliott, President  
Central Arizona College
- **Wednesday, February 21, 2024: 1-2:30pm Central Time**  
**AI Policy & Procedure Development**  
Presenters: TBD
- **Research Grant Proposals: Due March 15, 2024**
- **2024 CATYC Conference proposals: Due March 15, 2024**
- **2024 Legacy Award nominations: Due April 15, 2024**
- **2024 Innovation Award Nominations: Due April 15, 2024**

### 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 over 80 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 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Parsons, KS 67357** or pay online at [www.catyc.org](http://www.catyc.org)

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.

## CATYC Executive Committee

### CATYC President

Dr. Paul Watson II, Interim President  
Kellogg Community College  
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Battle Creek, MI 49017  
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Email: [watsonp@kellogg.edu](mailto:watsonp@kellogg.edu)

### CATYC President-Elect

Darci McFail, Ex. Director of Institutional Effectiveness  
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### CATYC Vice-President

Dr. Jacqueline Hagerott, Vice President of Academic Affairs  
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### CATYC Past President

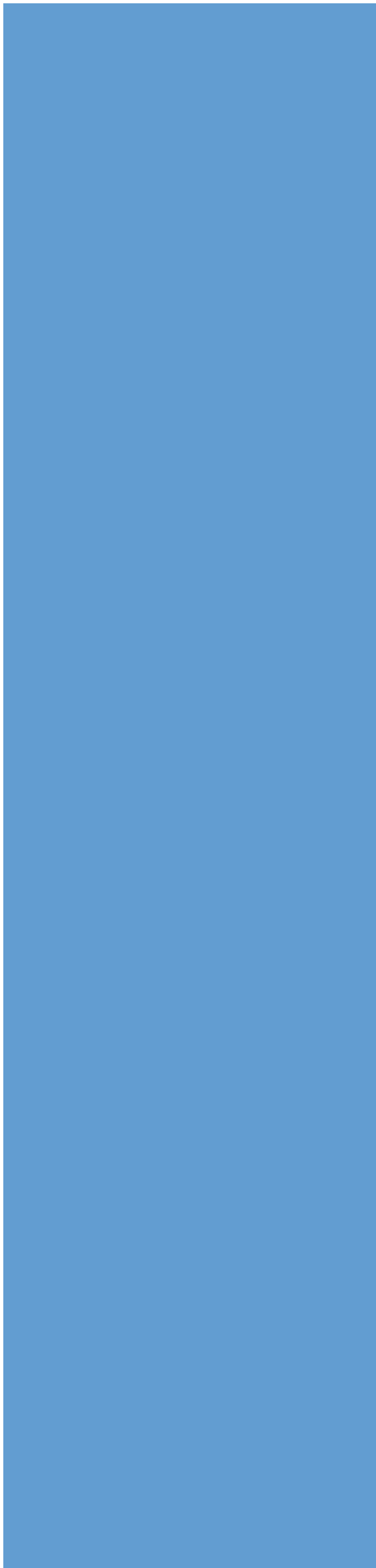
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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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