



## Up-coming Events:



Stop by our meet-and-greet event at the HLC Conference, 4:00 Saturday, March 21  
Plaza Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Chicago

Gift bags for the first 75 to arrive!



Mark your calendar for the CATYC's first  
**ALO SUMMIT**

A virtual networking event for Accreditation

Liaison Officers

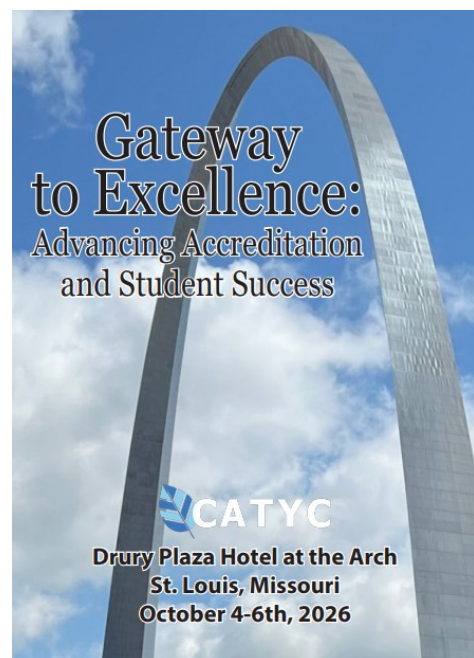
Wednesday, July 22

2:30-5:00 Eastern, 1:30-4:00 Central, 12:30-3:00

Mountain time zones

FOUR concise sessions focused on innovative ideas to prepare for a comprehensive review, tips from a peer reviewer, break-out rooms to share best practices, and more!

**FREE for CATYC members!**



Dear Colleagues,

As President of the Council to Advance Two-Year Colleges (CATYC), I am continually inspired by the depth of leadership, innovation, and commitment demonstrated across our member institutions. The Fall 2025 Conference reaffirmed the power of peer-driven learning and practical collaboration in strengthening institutional quality and student success. Presentations explored academic program review as a catalyst for continuous improvement; the strategic use of benchmarking and data to align institutional performance with Higher Learning Commission criteria; and effective approaches to amplifying the community college story through authentic storytelling. Participants also engaged in timely conversations on accreditation trends, institutional recovery and resilience, workforce and labor market analytics, early learning partnerships, and faculty success in the first year of teaching. Together, these sessions demonstrated how thoughtful practice, informed by evidence and shared experience, strengthens both accreditation outcomes and institutional culture.



Equally important, our ongoing dialogue with Higher Learning Commission leadership continues to shift the conversation from compliance to transformation. Accreditation is not simply a requirement to be managed — it is a strategic framework that can drive innovation, strengthen mission alignment, and elevate student outcomes when leveraged intentionally. This perspective aligns directly with CATYC's commitment to advancing excellence across two-year colleges and supporting leaders as they navigate complex regulatory, financial, workforce, and student success environments. The collective wisdom of our network equips institutions not only to meet expectations, but to lead boldly and sustainably into the future.

If you are not yet part of CATYC, I invite you to consider joining this vibrant professional community. Membership connects you to a national network of colleagues who openly share ideas, strategies, and lessons learned — accelerating improvement and reducing isolation in leadership. CATYC is a place where relationships are built, innovation is encouraged, and institutions grow stronger together. Whether you are leading accreditation efforts, advancing student success initiatives, strengthening institutional effectiveness, or developing future leaders, CATYC offers meaningful professional development and lasting professional connections. I encourage you to join us, engage fully, and help shape the future of two-year colleges as we advance together toward excellence.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffry D. Hawes

President, Eastern Wyoming College

President, Council to Advance Two-Year Colleges (CATYC)



*CATYC, established in 1938, is the only HLC affiliate group specifically focused on two-year colleges and their relationship to accreditation.*

*Membership fees are nominal, and we strive to keep conference attendance affordable in challenging financial times. The connections you will build are invaluable!*

*Visit [catyc.com](https://catyc.com) to learn more about our mission, history, and membership.*