

# STRENGTHENING RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Association of Community  
College Trustees



## Convene

Convene trustees, presidents, and community stakeholders



## Research

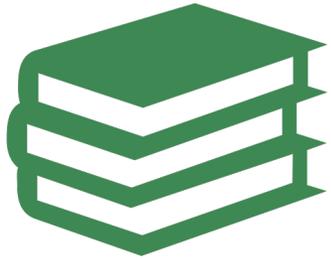
Research the needs facing rural communities



## Advocate

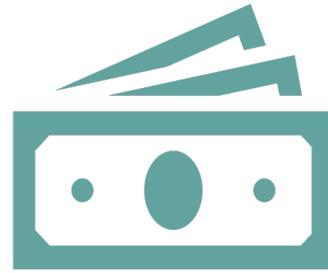
Develop policy solutions to support the viability of rural community colleges and their students

ACCT, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will assess the needs of rural community colleges across the country.



## Impact

There are over 260 rural community colleges which educate nearly 670,000 students (U.S. Dept. of Ed.)



## Rural Challenges

Funding  
Geography & Internet  
Access to Basic Services  
Changing Demographics  
Economic Development



## Innovative Strategies

Community partnerships  
Institutional partnerships  
Dual enrollment programs  
Digital learning

# Rural Community College Landscape

# 5 State Partners

California

Iowa

Kentucky

North Carolina

Texas



## Federal

Higher Education Act Reauthorization  
First 100 Days following 2020 election



## State

Engage governors and state legislators



## Local

Partner with local businesses, community organizations, and service providers

# Policy Opportunities

## Rural (remote):

“More than 25 miles from an urbanized area (population of 50,000 or more) and more than 10 miles from an urban cluster (population from 2,500-50,000.”

The Department of Education definition of rural is based exclusively on distance from urban centers.

**Butte College**

**Cerro Coso Community College**

**College of the Redwoods**

**Columbia College**

**Copper Mountain Community College**

**Crafton Hills College**

**Feather River Community College District**

**Imperial Valley College**

**Lake Tahoe Community College**

**Lassen Community College**

**Mendocino College**

**Palo Verde College**

**West Hills College-Lemoore**

# **CALIFORNIA'S RURAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

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# Timeline

- **October 2019-December 2019**
  - Developing research methodology, scheduling interviews, soliciting input from wide variety of stakeholders
- **January 2020-August 2020**
  - Field work (interviews and convenings) with trustees, presidents, legislators, local business leaders, students, and other community members
  - **May 1-3 2020 Annual Trustees Conference in La Jolla**
- **August 2020-January 2021**
  - Information synthesis and report writing

**February 2021- Report publication**

## Through these convenings and research report we hope to:

- Gather new information about challenges faced by rural institutions to develop state and federal policy solutions to support their long-term viability.
- Increase public awareness of issues facing rural community colleges
- Determine avenues to continue and broaden this work.

**Visit our website to receive project updates and provide us your feedback:**

[rural.acct.org](http://rural.acct.org)

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