

**Diann Gathright**  
AATYC President  
Rich Mountain  
Community College



**Changes, Contributions, and Challenges**

seem to be everyday experiences for Arkansas' community colleges. As the AATYC Board prepared this year's conference, we relish the opportunity for enrichment through the positive experiences of our colleagues. We expect ideas learned at this conference to be successfully implemented on campuses throughout Arkansas. The principles learned in these few days will have lasting impact in our work with students who are seeking enriched lives through higher education. The ideas generated will enrich us as leaders, economic developers, instructors, community developers, and people who influence the lives of thousands of Arkansas students each year.

Thank you for registering for this conference and making the commitment to assist your college as it moves into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with quality learning opportunities for our students.



**Ed Coulter**  
Chancellor  
ASU Mountain Home and  
Chair of American  
Association of  
Community Colleges' Board

The opportunity to serve as the chair of the American Association of Community Colleges' (AACC) Board of Directors is an honor. While there are many occasions to help direct national policy, I can assure you that Arkansas is always foremost in my considerations. Through my activity with the board of directors, I am even more convinced of the value of this organization and its positive impact on our colleges. The AACC staff works diligently to protect and promote our programs and our students at the national level. At the state level, we are fortunate for the cooperation that we have through AATYC as you represent and promote our 22 two-year colleges. This relationship is unique and others envy our success.

I am indebted to Mary, Pat, Lyndle, Mick, Roz, Karen, Tonya, and the other members of our administrative staff for their support in allowing me the opportunity to represent us at the national level. Please know I want to take this opportunity that has been afforded to all of us by my appointment to put the talents and accomplishments of Arkansas' two-year colleges in the national spotlight. This is a golden opportunity for all of us. I hope you will not hesitate to let me know if you have suggestions or concerns that should be shared at the AACC board level. I am proud to be able to represent the two-year colleges in Arkansas, and I appreciate your support in this endeavor.

**Chuck Welch**  
AATYC President-Elect  
University of Arkansas  
Community College at Hope



Please plan to join your colleagues from around the state in "Celebrating the Impact of Two-Year Colleges" at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference in Hot Springs, Oct. 15-17. As you know, Arkansas has experienced tremendous growth in higher education because of the progress of two-year colleges in the state. Because of two-year colleges, an accessible, affordable, high quality education is now available to all citizens of Arkansas. This is greatly impacting the economy of our state and improving the quality of life for everyone in our state. Now, it is time to celebrate the impact that our colleges are having on this state and share stories of the many good things happening on our campuses.

We will have a record number of conference sessions this year on a wide range of topics. Every two-year college in the state will be represented in session offerings, and as you can see from the list of interest areas, there will be topics of interest for every person on your campus! You will also have the opportunity to hear from nationally-recognized keynote speakers that will share examples of the impact that two-year colleges are having on this state and the entire nation. We are scheduled to hear from gubernatorial candidates Mike Beebe and Asa Hutchinson, interesting industry tours will be available, and we will once again be able to celebrate the accomplishments of our outstanding faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

The AATYC Board of Directors is preparing a conference that will be informative and timely, but also full of opportunities for networking and fun—after all, this year's conference is all about celebrating! We have all benefited from our two-year colleges, and we all have personal stories about the impact that our colleges have had on our communities and our students. The only thing left to do is register for the conference so you can personally share these stories and celebrate our two-year colleges with your colleagues from around the state. Last year marked the largest conference in the history of AATYC—let's make this year's even bigger! See you in Hot Springs!



**Ed Franklin**  
Executive Director  
AATYC

This year's conference promises to be very exciting. We are fortunate to have outstanding keynote speakers as well as over 80 breakout sessions for everyone--support staff, faculty, trustees, presidents, vice presidents, deans, division directors, and professional staff. If we are going to continue to improve the quality of education and services at our colleges, we must look at both big picture issues as well as best practices that we can take back to our colleges. This conference offers both. We are expecting over 600 participants from all over Arkansas and several of the surrounding states. Come share ideas and also have some fun in beautiful Hot Springs. I look forward to seeing you there.