



# The Community Standard

NEWS FROM THE ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

## Board adopts new Mission, Vision, and Values

In December, the State Board of Education demonstrated their commitment to strengthening our system by adopting new Mission, Vision, and Values statements.

These statements are more than just words on paper. They define who we are, what we do, and why we do it. They are words to live by.

- Our **Mission** is to provide a unified system of institutions dedicated to excellence in delivering academic education, adult education, and workforce development.
- Our **Vision** is to develop an educated, prosperous population by providing an affordable pathway to help citizens of any walk or stage of life succeed through quality education and training; a community college system where education works for all.
- Our **Values** are integrity, accessibility, accountability, diversity, and excellence.

### A message from the Chancellor ...

We've all heard that if you don't know where you're going, you'll never get there.

It has been nearly a decade since our system had a strategic plan. Since then, much has changed, and our mission has become more important than ever.

That's why our presidents, departmental staff, Board and a team of mostly outside advisors spent the past year examining our past and our present – important first steps toward our path to the future.

We will keep you apprised as system leaders develop the plan. Your input is essential to building an even more vital and productive system.

*Bradley Byrne*

### Strategic plan: Roadmap for our future

Throughout our history, ACCS has worked to provide maximum access to higher education with community-based institutions offering smaller classes and one-on-one instruction.

In recent years, we also became responsible for offering adult education focused on GED preparation. Now, as the nation struggles with an economic crisis, our workforce training and technical education role has become even more critical to the state's success.

With so much of Alabama's future relying on the performance of our system, an updated strategic plan is in order.

Last year, the State Board of Education established Task Force 2008 to conduct a broad review of the operations and internal governance of the system. Business, government and education leaders began the process of identifying and overcoming barriers to the system's success, and paving the way for a long-term, comprehensive strategic plan to map our future.

Phase I has required an extensive environmental scan to assess the current condition of a complex system in transition.

Over the coming months, the next steps will be the development of specific goals and objectives to ensure that our entire system knows where we are going, and how we are going to get there.