

Greetings Colleagues!

As promised, we are writing to share with you the results of the economic survey that was administered to the membership in December.

Many things have happened in the United States and around the world since December and most notably the inauguration of a new leader of the United States, President Barack Obama. We are all optimistic and hopeful that together we can restore economic stability around the globe to the level of economic and cultural development most beneficial to all.

Let us share with you some highlighted results of the survey we disseminated, related to projected professional development participation and convention activity:

- 44.8% of you indicated that your institution was experiencing budget cuts;
- 41.7% indicated you were experiencing departmental cuts;
- 34.5% indicated a freeze on all non essential travel;
- 27.7% indicated that your institution would not be contributing to your travel to the 2009 Convention;
- 55% indicated that the economy was influencing attendance at the 2009 Convention;
- 55.6% indicated a hiring freeze on all non essential positions; however,
- ***More than 66% indicated that you might or will attend the 2009 Convention in Metro DC***

As you can see, there are many of us who have economic hardship to overcome if we are to continue to invest in our own professional growth and development.

The ACPA Governing Board will be meeting in early February to continue discussing the international economic impact on the Association. In addition they will explore ways we can assist our membership in meeting these challenging times, while reducing expenses where possible, without reducing essential services to our members.

Already in motion, given the limitations on travel, we are re-evaluating our professional development programs that require travel and lodging. We have also encouraged the ACPA Foundation to increase scholarships, particularly for graduate students and new professionals, to assist members in continuing their professional growth and development. We have already initiated "ACPA on the Road" where we bring a professional conference to interested states and countries to make professional development more accessible for our members. The International Office is reviewing all existing contracts to ensure the best possible arrangements have been made for the Association and to make adjustments where possible.

As you know, the 2010 Annual Convention is scheduled for March 20-24, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA and we anticipate the international economic situation to carry forward into fiscal year 2010 as well. We will hold expenses and reduce costs where possible to make this annual convention as affordable as possible. You are well aware of the cost to do business in major US cities and our site selection considers the most cost effective locations, given member preferences. We have selected our sites for the next two years beyond 2010: in 2011 we will be in Baltimore, Maryland and in 2012 we will be in Louisville, Kentucky, very economical cities.

We will share additional information with you as it becomes available and look forward to seeing many of you at the 2009 Annual Convention. Of those responding to the survey; over 67% are planning to be attend the convention and we trust we will see many ACPA colleagues in Metro DC. A full report will be given at the annual business meeting and will be available in the post convention edition of Developments. If you have ideas and/or suggestions, please do not hesitate to share those with us groberts@acpa.nche.edu and paperillo@davidson.edu.

ACPA is celebrating its 85th Anniversary as a member of the higher education community. Throughout these many years the student affairs profession has grown and flourished as a critical part of the educational experience of students at the collegiate level. The theoretical and philosophical foundations of our profession were created by ACPA members and quality research continues to this day through the efforts of our scholars and practitioners Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our students!

For those of you who are able, we welcome your participation in this historic 85th anniversary of the Association, 50th anniversary of the renowned Journal of College Student Development (JCSD), 30th anniversary of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) and the 15th anniversary of the ACPA Foundation. We look forward to your continued active membership in our vibrant ACPA.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Perillo
ACPA President

Gregory Roberts
Executive Director

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