

OACC names Jack Hershey next President and CEO

COLUMBUS – State finance expert and veteran public higher education advocate Jack Hershey has been named the new President and CEO of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC).

Hershey, known for his leadership on a series of major innovations affecting the funding, management and performance of state colleges and universities, comes to the OACC after 10 years managing state government affairs at Ohio State University.

“Jack Hershey is the perfect choice to lead our ongoing efforts to innovate, collaborate, contribute to economic growth and get maximum value for student tuition dollars and state support,” said Dr. Kevin Boys, President of Southern State Community College and the Vice Chair of the OACC. “Over the years, Jack has earned the respect and confidence of state policy makers and higher education officials in every corner of Ohio.”

Himself a product of Ohio’s public higher education system, Hershey recognized the critical role community colleges play in training Ohio’s workforce for the jobs of tomorrow.

“State leaders have forged a good working relationship with business and industry,” Hershey said. “I am committed to building on that partnership to ensure Ohio is meeting the workforce demands to revitalize and transform our economy.”

As part of his role at Ohio State, Hershey now serves as Project Director for Governor Kasich’s Quality and Value Initiative, a position to which he was appointed by Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor John Carey and former Ohio State President Gordon Gee.

He previously served as staff leader on successful collaborations by all state colleges and universities to produce a unified approach to funding for both the capital and operating budgets for campuses statewide. Both models were endorsed by Governor Kasich and won bipartisan support in the General Assembly.

Also during his time at OSU, Hershey served as the legislative lead for the Strickland Administration’s Ohio Construction Reform Review Panel. After a pilot program on construction reform was launched, he led legislative efforts to authorize modern-day construction management options for all future projects on public higher education campuses.

Prior to his service at Ohio State, Hershey was Deputy Director of the Office of Budget and Management under Governor Bob Taft and was Director of Finance and a finance analyst in the Ohio House of Representatives under Speaker Jo Ann Davidson.

Hershey is a native of Cleveland. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Public Policy Management from the University of Akron and is now pursuing a master’s in Public Policy Management from Ohio State University. He and his wife Sharon live in Columbus with their two children. Hershey begins his new job on July 1.

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