AAA 2016 Annual Meeting
Two-Year College Section in Review

The American Accounting Association 2016 Annual Meeting in New York was a great success for the Two-Year College section. There were six excellent TYC sessions offered:

- The Next Generation of Accountants: Implementing the Pathways Vision Model
- Successful Preparation Strategies for the CPA Exam
- Creating Synergy Engagement and Collaboration in Your Online Courses
- Who’s Cheating in My Classroom?
- Certifications Available to Two-Year College Students that Provide Valuable Workplace Skills
- Strategies for Success for Two Year College Students Transitioning to a Four Year University

A big thank you to everyone (presenters and attendees) who participated in the 2016 Annual Meeting TYC sessions. We now look forward to AAA 2017 in San Diego!

Congratulations to the Following TYC 2016 Award Winner

2016 TYC Educator of the Year Award
Tracie Miller-Nobles
Austin Community College, Austin, TX

Tracie L. Miller-Nobles, CPA, received her master’s degree in accounting and is currently completing her doctoral degree in Adult Education at Texas A&M University. She is an associate professor at Austin Community College. She has taught at Texas State University and the University of Texas-Austin. Professor Miller is an author of Horngren's Accounting textbook. She has accounting experience with Deloitte Tax LLP.

Tracie is also a recipient of the J. Michael and Mary Anne Cook Prize, the Texas Society of CPAs Rising Star award, and TSCPAs Outstanding Accounting Educator. She has served in leadership roles with the AICPA, the American Accounting Association and the Teachers of Accounting at Two-Year Colleges.
TWO YEAR COLLEGE SECTION OFFICERS

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Welcome! I hope this newsletter finds you well in the midst of your semester/quarter, and looking forward to a pleasant Spring weather. As many of you, I am looking forward to upcoming Spring regional meetings and the 2017 celebration of AAA’s 101th year in San Diego, California.

This spring, I plan to attend the AAA Mid-Atlantic Region meeting and the Conference of the Public Interest Section meeting in Washington, D.C. The regional meetings continue to attract more and more two-year faculty each year. These meetings provide a great opportunity to improve our teaching techniques within our classrooms. Improving student engagement and effective utilization of classroom technology continue to be the topics that I learn more about at these meetings. Furthermore, the regional meetings facilitate career enhancing networking opportunities as well as a way to learn a variety of strategies that inform and prepare our students for success in employment or transfer to a rigorous baccalaureate program.

Congratulations to our 2016 Two-Year College Section Educator of the Year, Tracie Miller-Nobles from Austin Community College and our 2016 Two-Year College Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Glenn Owen. In addition, congratulations to Markus Ahrens for receiving the J. Michael and Mary Anne Cook Prize Award for Two-Year College teaching. I admire and appreciate the dedication to teaching and learning that these individuals demonstrate.

I remain excited for the opportunity to serve as the new president of the TYC section. Furthermore, I look forward to seeing members throughout the year at a regional and/or annual meeting. As a reminder, many of the regions offer reduced registration fees to attract and enable two-year college faculty to attend a meeting. The Two-Year College section also welcomes volunteers to assist at one of the Two-Year College sessions at the AAA Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

Enjoy your semester.

Sidney
Message from the Secretary / Editor

Welcome to the 2017 Winter/Spring edition of The Communicator. This issue contains two excellent articles for your teaching tackle box. Brenda Mattison from Tri-County Technical College in South Carolina shares ideas on Getting Students to Use Their Brains while Markus Ahrens and Cathy Scott discuss technological resources in What’s in Your Teaching and Learning Toolbox? A Time for a Check-Up! Markus is from St. Louis Community College and is one of our TYC Section award winners. Cathy teaches at Navarro College in Texas.

This edition also summarizes the Two-Year College (TYC) activities at the 2016 annual meeting in New York, including a summary of TYC sessions, the 2016 TYC Section award winners and the 2016 Two-Year College J. Michael and Mary Anne Cook Prize-Winner. We are proud of our TYC section and those members who have been recognized as outstanding educators.

The Two Year College Section is one of oldest of the Special Interest Sections of the American Accounting Association, with 2016 marking the 40th anniversary of the section. The first two Special Interest Sections of the AAA were formed in early 1976: the Auditing Section and the Public Sector Section (later renamed Government and Nonprofit). Three more Sections were approved in August of that year: the International Accounting Section, the Management Advisory Services Section (later known as the Accounting Information Systems Section) and The Community/Junior College Section (later called the Two-Year College Section). We are looking forward to our forty-first year as the best one yet.

As we look ahead to the annual meeting, the Two-Year College Section is currently requesting nominations for the following 2017 Awards: Two-Year College Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award and the Two-Year College Educator of the Year Award. More information about the nomination requirements and process can be found found in this edition of our TYC newsletter.

We are also soliciting articles for the next edition of The Communicator, which will focus on emerging issues in accounting education and how to successfully incorporate these into our courses and curriculum. If you have innovative ways you are integrating sustainability, “big data”, or cybersecurity, please consider submitting an article to tell your ideas.

If you are planning to attend an upcoming 2017 AAA regional meeting or the 2017 Annual Meeting in San Diego, this edition includes a listing of those meeting dates and locations. You will also find a list of the TYC sessions offered at this year’s annual meeting. I look forward to seeing you either at an upcoming regional meeting or at the annual meeting this summer in San Diego.

-Carol
Congratulations to the Following TYC 2016 Award Winners:

**2016 TYC Lifetime Achievement Award**

Glenn Owen

Congratulations to Glenn Owen, the 2016 recipient of the Two-Year College Lifetime Achievement Award. Glenn is a CPA, a tenured Professor of Accounting and past Academic Senate President at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California. He has lectured on accounting and information systems at the University of California, Santa Barbara and at Allan Hancock for 36 years. His professional experience includes five years at Deloitte & Touche and several years in private industry as a Vice President of Finance and Accounting.

He has authored numerous textbooks on QuickBooks, Excel, and the use of technology in the classroom. His innovative teaching style emphasizes the decision maker’s perspective and encourages students to think critically.

**J. Michael and Mary Anne Cook Prize – TYC and the TYC Leadership Award**

Markus Ahrens

Congratulations to Markus Ahrens, the 2016 recipient of the Two-Year College, J. Michael and Mary Anne Cook Prize. The J. Michael and Mary Anne Cook Prize recognizes those who consistently demonstrate the attributes of a superior accounting instructor. Markus was also the recipient of the Two-Year College Leadership Award.

Markus is a Professor of Accounting at St. Louis Community College-Meramec and currently serves as the department chair. Prior to his teaching career, he worked as an accountant for 15 years. In addition, Markus has received national awards for his teaching and his innovation in the classroom, including most recently, the 2013 AICPA Bea Sanders Innovation Award in Teaching Introductory Accounting Courses. Markus has served as a Trustee for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Foundation Board, and has served as past Chair for the Two-Year Section of the American Accounting Association, and co-chair for the national steering committee for the Conference on Teaching and Learning in Accounting. Furthermore, Markus is a Board Council member for the American Accounting Association. In 2010, Markus served as president for the Missouri Association of Accounting Educators.
AAA Meetings

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<td><strong>Annual Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>Imagining Our Future</td>
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<td>2017 Northeast Region Meeting</td>
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<td>2017 Midwest Region Meeting</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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**Call for Short Articles for the Next Issue**
Anyone wishing to submit short articles, cartoons, stories, letters to the editor, or other items to TYC – Communicator Newsletter should send the material to:

**The Communicator**
Carol Hughes
Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College
828-398-7242
Email: chughes@abtech.edu

Your manuscript should be short (not over two to three pages single spaced). Please submit your manuscript in Word or RTF format.
Teaching, a noble profession, can also be a very frustrating one. We want our students to be successful, but often they are not, especially in their first accounting course. For many students, this is their first technical course and they simply do not know how to study and learn the material. Can we help? Of course we can! But this requires us, as teachers, to not only teach accounting but to also teach students how to learn. We can do that in subtle ways, such as developing our courses in a way that requires students to take the necessary steps to learn the materials, and in not so subtle ways, making it obvious that we are teaching them how to learn.

There has been a lot of research conducted on how the brain works. I attended a teaching conference a few years ago that presented some of the research and it really made me think about my courses and what I expect my students to accomplish. I realized that just covering the material in class and then expecting them to adequately prepare for the test was not enough. My students wanted to cram and memorize the material. I wanted them to analyze transactions and make decisions based on the analysis. So I began my journey of reading about how the brain works and practical applications for the classroom. I have transformed how I teach, which has also transformed how my students learn.

Two concepts I implemented are repetition and distributed practice. Repetition involves working with the material several times. Distributed practice involves spreading that repetition over time. For example, if a student plans to spend 10 hours studying and preparing for a test, then studying two hours per day for five days is much more productive than studying 10 hours the day before the test. I now tell my students that cramming the day before a test may help them pass the test, but it does not help them retain the information for a longer term. For example, the content learned in Chapters 1 and 2 are needed to understand Chapters 3 and 4. I let them know they are building a foundation and the information must be retained for later in the course and also in future courses. But just telling them isn’t enough. I also structure assignments so students are exposed to the material multiple times by using pre-class, in-class, and post-class assignments. By making the out-of-class assignments required with points assigned and deadlines, the material is repeated and practice is distributed over time.

I have also added some required reading for my students in Financial Accounting. The New Science of Learning—How to Learn in Harmony with Your Brain by Terry Doyle and Todd Zakrajsek is written for college students. The book helps students understand how they can affect their own learning by discussing the effects of sleep, exercise, using multiple senses, patterns, and mindset on the learning process. I then follow up with some activities.
One required activity is to complete a test reflection after the first test. Students are required to review the steps they took (or did not take) to prepare for the test and the grades earned on homework, quizzes, and the test. In a reflection essay, students evaluate their study process, the results of their process, and how they can improve their process in future units.

In another activity, I require students to track their physical activities for two weeks. Students measure if they sleep for at least 7 hours, are active for 30 or more minutes, and drink at least eight glasses of water each day for the two weeks. The students then look for patterns in their activities and how those patterns have affected their learning. Students continue to track their activities for another three weeks. Requiring students to record their activities makes them more aware and they try harder to meet the minimum recommended levels. A second reflection is required and most students state they have noticed a difference. They feel better physically, pay better attention in class, and see an improvement in grades.

I have also implemented the use of mini lessons on learning. Just a few minutes per week help students understand how noticing patterns helps with retention; multitasking is a myth but task switching is detrimental to learning; the study environment can affect test scores; and teaching the material to someone (or something) else helps with retention. These short lessons can make the difference between successfully completing the course and dropping out.

Covering the required accounting material in a course can be a daunting task. How can we also find time to teach students how to learn? The first step is to realize that we have to be more than accountants; we must also be teachers. And teachers have to work hand-in-hand with their learners. Otherwise, our teaching is in vain. I have found that taking time to help create better learners makes teaching accounting easier, not harder.

Books I have found helpful: Learner-Centered Teaching—Putting the Research on Learning Into Practice by Terry Doyle; Brain Rules by John Medina; Teach Students How to Learn by Saundra McGuire

Brenda Mattison, CMA, is Accounting Instructor at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, SC. She can be reached at bmattiso@tctc.edu
What’s in Your Teaching and Learning Toolbox? A Time for a Check-Up!

By: Markus Ahrens and Cathy Scott

From time to time, we feel it is important to reflect on the technology tools and resources in your teaching and learning toolbox as well as identify additional tools that can help engage students or organize yourself and your classroom. When we discuss this toolbox check-up activity, we are often asked the question, “Where is the best place to start?” So we would like to share how we stay organized as well as recap some of our favorite and most useful technology tools.

To maintain easy access to our documents from anywhere or any device, we utilize Dropbox for document cloud storage. In addition, Dropbox allows us to easily share documents with anyone. Other cloud storage services that we recommend are Google Drive (https://teachingandlearningtoolbox.wordpress.com/2016/01/14/google-drive/), Microsoft One Drive and Apple iCloud.

In addition, a great note taking app is a must have for increasing productivity. Both Notability (https://teachingandlearningtoolbox.wordpress.com/2016/07/31/notability/) and Evernote (https://teachingandlearningtoolbox.wordpress.com/2016/03/30/evernote/) are tools that we utilize on a weekly basis. Additional note taking tools that we recommend are GoodNotes, Notes Plus, Noteshelf and Apple Notes.

Furthermore, we utilize technology to convert our typical classroom into an interactive whiteboard environment. Doceri (https://teachingandlearningtoolbox.wordpress.com/2015/09/18/doceri/) allows our handheld devices to project images through the classroom overhead projector and record our lectures. Additional whiteboard and/or lecture capture technology that we recommend are Explain Everything, Educreations, ShowMe, Notability, Splashtop, Scoodle Jam, Camtasia and Tegrity.

Looking for useful reminder and organizational technology We utilize and recommend FutureMe (https://teachingandlearningtoolbox.wordpress.com/2015/12/07/connect-with-your-future-you/), Remind https://teachingandlearningtoolbox.wordpress.com/2015/11/26/remind/ and Group Me. Each of these tools offer benefits that help you and your students stay on track.
Over the next few weeks, we hope that you take a few minutes to complete your toolbox check-up, in order to discover or rediscover at least one technology tool that you feel can help you become more organized or could be used to further engage your students. Also, consider adopting technology tools that compliment your teaching style and course pedagogy.

In addition to the tools we have suggested in this article, you are encouraged to visit our Teaching and Learning Toolbox website and blog (www.teachingandlearningtoolbox.com), for more ideas. The Teaching and Learning Toolbox website and blog is a free resource that provides proven technology resources as well as regular tips and tricks that can help you link technology with pedagogy or simplify incorporating technology into your courses. We also recommend that you check with your institution to see if they currently provide any technologies at little or no cost to faculty. We suggest that you first consider utilizing tools that are available and supported by your institution, or can be acquired for the least amount of investment.

Good luck on your toolbox check-up. We hope you identify technology tools that will enhance your teaching toolbox.

Markus Ahrens is a Professor of Accounting at Saint Louis Community College-Meramec and can be reached at mahrens@stlcc.edu Cathy Scott, Ph.D. is a Professor of Accounting at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas and can be reached at cathy.scott@navarrocollege.edu

Call for Nominations

The Two-Year College Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award

The Lifetime Achievement in Accounting Education Award of the Two-Year Section of the American Accounting Association is designed to recognize full-time college accounting educators who have distinguished themselves for excellence in teaching and for involvement in the accounting profession. The award extends profession-wide recognition to the recipient and promotes role models in academe.

A committee of the Two-Year Section of the American Accounting Association will review the nominations and select the recipient. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association.

Eligibility The committee will assess each nominee considering the following qualifications. The criteria listed under each qualification will be used as guidelines by the committee in determining the nominee's eligibility for the award.
1. Length of Teaching Career. A past or current full-time accounting educator at a two-year college having a teaching career of at least 20 years. Ten of the twenty years of teaching must have been at a two-year college.

2. Excellence in Classroom Teaching and Motivating Students:
a. Demonstration of Innovative Teaching Methods: documented by the nominee's administration, chair, or the nominee.
b. Curriculum Development: documented by the nominee's administration, chair, or the nominee.
c. Student/Faculty Relations: serving as a mentor, advisor to the Accounting Club, advising students, etc.
d. Recommendations from the nominee's colleagues, former students, etc.
e. Service to the Department and/or College: serving on department and/or college committees, i.e. curriculum committee, etc.

3. Contribution to the Accounting Profession and Participation in Scholarly Activities:
a. Participation in professional accounting organizations, i.e. AICPA, AAA, State CPA societies.
b. Participation and attendance at seminars, symposia, short courses, and workshops.
c. Scholarly and professional publications.
d. Involvement in civic activities.

Nomination Process and Application Procedure Nominations can be made by anyone who has knowledge of the nominee's background relevant to the eligibility requirements. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Each nomination must consist of the following:

(1) the nominator’s name and address and the name and college/university affiliation of the nominee, (2) a statement by the nominator supporting his/her nomination detailing how the nominee meets the eligibility requirements, (3) the nominee's curriculum vitae, and (4) other submissions to support the eligibility requirements of the award as outlined above.

A nominee who is currently involved in administration or research is still eligible for the award as long as he/she has met the 20 year teaching requirement.

The nominee need not be a CPA or hold a doctoral degree.

Nominees who are not selected for the award can remain eligible for selection in the future, provided that they still meet the selection criteria and updated biographical data is submitted. In any given year there may be no recipient, one recipient, or more than one recipient.
The Deadline for Submissions is June 1, 2017.

Submissions must be made electronically. Attach a Microsoft® Word file to an email and send to mahrens@stlcc.edu with "TYC Lifetime Achievement Award" in the subject line.

The Two-Year College Educator of the Year Award

Do you know someone who has distinguished him/herself in the field of accounting education? Please nominate that individual for the annual Educator of the Year award which will be presented at the American Accounting Association annual conference during the meeting of the Two-Year Section. This is a wonderful way to recognize the professional contributions of one of our colleagues. A committee of the Two-Year Section will select the recipient.

Eligibility The candidate must:

1. Have at least ten years of teaching experience and have taught at a two-year college.

2. Be a current member in the AAA Two-Year College Section.

Note: Current officers and selection committee members are not eligible for this award. Two-Year College Section members may be eligible if they teach at four-year institutions. Contact the selection committee chair with questions about eligibility.

Criteria - The candidate must show evidence of:

1. Excellence and innovation in teaching accounting.

2. Commitment to the improvement of teaching within his or her institution.

3. Leadership in the development of teaching and learning beyond his or her own courses.

Nomination Procedure The nominator must notify the committee electronically by June 1, 2017. Self-nominations are acceptable.

The candidate must submit nomination materials June 15, 2017: (see next section)

Submissions must be made electronically. Attach a Microsoft® Word file to an email and send to mahrens@stlcc.edu with "TYC Educator of the Year Award" in the subject line.
Submission Materials the candidate should submit the following by

1. Name, college address, home address, college phone number, home phone number, fax number and email address of candidate.

2. A vitae or resume.

3. Other materials that show:
   1. Number of years of teaching experience.
   2. Number of years as a member of the AAA Two-Year College Section.
   3. Evidence of teaching excellence. Examples: data from teaching evaluations over several years, list of special course development efforts, description of effective teaching strategies used, letters from colleagues and students, examples of course materials, previous teaching awards or summaries of student ratings.
   4. Evidence of educational leadership. Examples: conducting seminars, workshops, conferences or other events for colleagues; papers, texts, newsletters or other publications related to teaching; work on special projects related to learning.

GIVE THE FORM BELOW TO COLLEAGUES AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN!

________________________________________________________

Membership Application for the Two-Year College Section

ID#
Name: ____________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
Affiliation: ________________________
Telephone: Office ___________ Home ___________ Fax___________
Dues Enclosed: $10
Payment method: ___ Check enclosed (make payable to AAA) ___ VISA
MasterCard Billing Address: __________________________________
Account Number: ___________________________ Expiration date: ______
Signature: __________________________________________


Going to the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in San Diego? Plan to attend the following Two-Year College sessions at our annual section meeting. Hope to see you in San Diego!

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