



2026 BELLWETHER AWARD GUIDANCE WEBINAR

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DIRECTOR

WHO WE ARE

Nationally recognized member-supported consortium charged with addressing critical issues facing community colleges through applicable research and the promotion and replication of best practices addressing workforce development, instructional programs and services, and planning governance and finance.

Annually, 30 community colleges are deemed finalists from a large group of applicants in the United States and its territories. To date, BCC has over 90 unduplicated Bellwether Award recipients and roughly 930 unduplicated Bellwether Award finalists.

BCC is proudly supported by the Alamo Colleges District in San Antonio, Texas.

WHAT WE DO

- Support, publicize, and promote annual award competitions that honor cutting-edge, trendsetting programs worthy of replication
- Showcase exemplary community college research
- Disseminate program knowledge and insights on each award-winning submission to promote replication by providing access to design models, organizational frameworks, and assessments to BCC members



A LOOK BACK

CONGRATULATIONS! 2025 BELLWETHER FINALISTS



INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Blinn College District
- Blue Ridge Community College
- Catawba Valley Community College
- Elgin Community College
- Forsyth Technical Community College
- Illinois Central College
- Isothermal Community College
- Long Beach City College
- Madisonville Community College
- Southwestern Community College

PLANNING, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

- Fletcher Technical Community College
- Lone Star College- Online
- Mid-State Technical College
- Marion Technical College
- Ocean County College
- Reading Area Community College
- South Suburban College
- Stanly Community College
- Victor Valley College
- Yavapai College

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Antelope Valley College
- Chattanooga State Community College
- Community College of Baltimore County
- Cleveland Community College
- Del Mar College
- Delgado Community College
- Illinois Central College
- Madisonville Community College
- Motlow State Community College
- Tidewater Community College

BELLWETHERCOLLEGECONSORTIUM.COM

IMPORTANT DATES

June 17: Official Opening of Submission Portal

Sept. 25: Submission Portal Closes (11:00 pm CT)

November: 2026 Bellwether Finalists Announced

Assembly Registration Opens

Bellwether Finalists Preparatory Webinar

Feb. 22-24: 2026 Community College Futures Assembly

BELLWETHER AWARD ROUND ONE - JUDGE'S RUBRIC

Identify a critical issue or challenge that this program, model, policy or service was designed to address. (20%)

Describe the process, timeline, participants, and resources required to implement the program model, policy or service. (25%)

Specify the performance indicators and outcomes that have demonstrated the success of this program, model, policy or service from an equity lens (if applicable) and success in scalability. (30%)

- 0 PTS. Did not specify any outcomes or indicators.
- 1 - 2 PTS. Minimally provided documented outcomes and indicators: College provided a scant review of performance indicators and outcomes.
- 3 - 4 PTS. Moderately provided documented outcomes: Provided a basic summary of performance indicators and outcomes.
- 5 - 7 PTS. Satisfactorily provided documented outcomes. The college provided successful performance indicators and outcomes that establish the achievement of the program, policy, or service.

Elaborate on lessons learned for colleges considering a replication of this initiative. (25%)

SUBMISSION PORTAL DEMO

Go to BellwetherCollegeConsortium.Com

- Bellwether Award

- Submission Form and Guidelines

BELLWETHER FINALIST STAGE

Competition Requirements:

- BCC membership & team registration by deadline (3-5 presenters are suggested)
- Submission of digital binder
- Participation in the Bellwether Finalist Showcase
- Participation in the Oral Presentation
- Participation in Bellwether Award Ceremony

BELLWETHER AWARD - FAQs

How many Bellwether Awards categories ? 3

How many submissions per college or district? **1 per category**

* Districts consisting of more than one *independent* college, can submit one submission per college, per award category

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Annual membership and three registrations to the Community College Futures Assembly
- Discounted registration for additional attendees from member colleges
- Unlimited access to digital binders of award-winning programs
- Links to BCC Summer Innovation Series featuring award winners
- Presentations on the latest community college research

OUR TEAM

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QUESTIONS?



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THANK YOU!



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