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## 2008 BELLWETHER AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

ORLANDO, Fla.—The Community College Futures Assembly announced January 29<sup>th</sup> that Brookdale Community College, New Jersey, the Community College of Baltimore County, Maryland, and the University of Hawaii-Maui Community College, Hawaii, were this year’s winners of the prestigious Bellwether Awards. The Bellwether Awards were established to recognize outstanding and innovative programs that are leading colleges in the 21st Century.

The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) won in the Instructional Programs and Services category, which recognizes programs and services that foster or support teaching and learning in the community college. The presentation by CCBC titled, “High Impact Assessment: Implementing Changes to Improve Student Learning”, described the assessment program at CCBC that involves asking the right questions and using data to determine what changes should be implemented to enhance student learning. Guided by a five-stage design, CCBC’s assessment program is faculty-driven, risk-free, and externally validated. Curricular and pedagogical changes have resulted in evidence-based learning improvements that benefit everyone. Learn more about CCBC’s exemplary assessment program at [www.ccbcmd.edu/loa/index.html](http://www.ccbcmd.edu/loa/index.html).

Brookdale Community College won in the Planning, Governance and Finance category, which recognizes programs or activities that improve efficiency and effectiveness in the community college. Brookdale’s presentation titled, “Five-Year Impact Study of the New Jersey Coastal Community” discussed New Jersey’s Coastal Community, led by Brookdale Community College. The Community is a six member partnership of colleges and universities that provides increased local access to post-associate degree education. Brookdale’s presentation discussed nine measures of institutional effectiveness and lessons learned on the development and operation of the state’s first university center. Learn more about BCC’s innovative and collaborative center at <http://njcommunity.org/>.

The University of Hawai’i-Maui Community College won in the Workforce Development category, which recognizes strategic alliances that promote community and economic development. The Hawaii presentation titled “Sink or SLIM: Sustainability Model” described how the college’s Sustainable Living Institute of Maui (SLIM) led a partnership with a major Maui-based agriculture and land development company and two international research universities to develop a model to respond to emerging local and global workforce needs. Visit <http://sustainablemaui.com/institute.html> to learn more about this outstanding program, or visit <http://www.mauicc.biz/NML/view.asp?ID=77> to watch an info-cast presentation about SLIM.

The Community College Futures Assembly issued a call for Bellwether Award nominations in the fall of 2007, and 30 finalist colleges were competitively chosen from the applicants. Ten finalists were selected in each category: *Instructional Programs and Services*, cosponsored by the National Council of Instructional Administrators; *Planning, Governance and Finance*, cosponsored by the Council for Resource Development; and *Workforce Development*, cosponsored by the National Council for Continuing Education and Training. All finalists presented at the Assembly and one winner was then selected in each category.

The Community College Futures Assembly, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, convenes annually as an independent national policy forum both for key opinion leaders to work as a “think tank” in identifying critical issues facing the future of community colleges, and to recognize Bellwether Finalist colleges as trend-setting institutions. For more information about the Bellwether Awards or Futures Assembly, consult the Community College Futures Assembly Web site at <http://www.coe.ufl.edu/futures>, e-mail [futures@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:futures@coe.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-0745 ext. 280. The 2009 Community College Futures Assembly will again be held in Orlando, Fla.

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