

## ACI Board of Trustees Honor ACI Executive Director Mick Weltman

April 29, 2022



ACI Board of Trustees Chair Lyn Bulman presents an acrylic memento to Mick Weltman.

The ACI Board of Trustees honored [Mick Weltman](#), ACI executive director, at the board's annual meeting April 22 in Chicago. Weltman, who began his role as executive director in late 2014, plans to retire this summer. A search for his successor is expected to be completed soon.

Prior to joining ACI, Weltman was a consultant to associations and nonprofit organizations, and served as an adjunct instructor at multiple colleges. His tenure at ACI has included an increase of six [member colleges and universities](#), including two that returned to the organization. He led development of [research projects](#) that showed member institutions' value to the state of \$3.75

billion, and that more than 24,000 alumni of member schools work at 148 top Illinois companies.

Weltman and staff secured at least eight grants from the Council of Independent Colleges, Washington, D.C., which established or funded ACI these programs: Career Fair, Career Leaders Program, Career Mentoring Program, Leadership Council, a major gifts program, Micro-Internships Program promotion, Peer Mentoring Program and Work and Life Skills Boot Camps. The organization recently won a planning grant to conduct research and develop an implementation plan for community college students to complete bachelor's degrees at ACI member schools.

In addition, ACI increased its [Peer Mentoring Program](#) member campuses from three to 12; established Named Scholarships; established partnerships with Parker Dewey for [micro-internships](#) and Sage Scholars for tuition discounts for students; became a regular participant in the annual Midwest Roundtable on Talent at Mackinac island, Michigan; established an ACI Board of Trustees student position; initiated regular discussion groups for board members, presidents and provosts; and introduced a new [website](#), organizational logo and design.

### **Tributes focus on hospitality, compassion, effectiveness**

Board members said they appreciated Weltman's focus on hospitality, compassion and effectiveness in building the organization. For example, President Brian McGee of [Quincy University](#), commented that one of his early contacts when he became president three years ago was Weltman. "He helped wonderfully to orient me as he had with many presidents before," he said. "On behalf of all of the presidents who have had that experience, I express my gratitude. (Mick) is a kind and generous spirit."

Leslie J. Sawyer, board member, president and CEO, Environmental Design International, Inc., thanked Weltman for helping independent, private colleges in Illinois, and their students. "You really have shown sincerity about caring about students and caring about all of us. You're a friend of the board, and I've enjoyed working with you," she said. Raymond E. Krouse, Jr., board member, Sikich, said he enjoyed the opportunity to meet with member presidents. "You really get to learn about the schools and their challenges. I really appreciated that," he said. Anthony Lobello, board member and Advancement Committee chair, Sheehan Nagle Hartray Architects, said Weltman has been "a great brand ambassador" for ACI. Chloe Overstreet, student board member, [Eureka College](#), thanked Weltman on behalf of students ACI serves, and commented, "Your generous heart and your desire to make higher education more accessible to people is truly incredible."



President Gene Crume, right, of Judson University, presents Mick Weltman with the university's Presidential Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Lyn Bulman, chair, ACI Board of Trustees, said she appreciated her many discussions with Weltman about ACI. On behalf of the board, she presented Weltman several gifts, including an acrylic memento in recognition of his service, above left.

President Gene Crume, ACI executive committee member and president, [Judson University](#), presented Weltman the university's Presidential Award for Outstanding Achievement, above right. Weltman is the ninth person awarded this distinction, Crume said.

In thanking the board, Weltman recalled that when he applied for the ACI job in 2014, he spoke to board members and leaders on short notice and was offered the opportunity in four days' time. "Thank you so much for this great opportunity. It's been a real treat. It's been a real pleasure serve in this role," he said.