



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION for  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## MEDIA SOURCE SHEET

**Heather Van Sickle  
Executive Director**

**National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship**

**Bio:** Heather Van Sickle is executive director for the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), a rapidly growing non-profit membership organization dedicated to increasing entrepreneurship offerings and thinking at community colleges across the country. Heather has been a featured speaker at the American Association of Community Colleges, the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development, the League for Innovation, the Community College Baccalaureate Association, the Council for Resource Development, and the U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Her research includes the effectiveness of entrepreneurship education for at-risk youth, as well as how community colleges can effectively collaborate with community organizations and four-year institutions to create more successful entrepreneurs.

As an entrepreneur, Heather participated in the start-up and management of a remodeling business. She has a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College as well as an associate's degree from Springfield Technical Community College.

**Topics on which Heather can be an informed media source include:**

- ***The growing role of community colleges in regional economic planning and development.*** Long known for their focus on workforce development, community colleges are expanding their economic impact by leading the rapidly growing field of entrepreneurship education. Heather can provide insights into this major expansion of the economic development role of community colleges and provide examples from schools nationwide.
- ***How entrepreneurship programs are adding value to the educational experience at community colleges across the country.*** No matter what career paths students are preparing for at their community college, many are having that educational experience enriched through the growing availability of entrepreneurship programs. Heather can discuss innovative programs being instituted across curricula at two-year colleges and provide examples of how these efforts have helped students with entrepreneurial aspirations.
- ***Why more and more successful entrepreneurs who attended community colleges are stepping up to the plate to foster a new generation of entrepreneurs.*** Business owners who got their start at community colleges are increasingly supporting their alma maters, from serving as mentors to students interested in starting their own businesses to making million-dollar donations. Heather can provide examples of how community colleges are having increasing success in cultivating active participation and major donations from successful entrepreneurial alums.

**Media Contact Information:** To schedule an interview an interview with Heather Van Sickle on these topics or for any story related to the boom in community college, please call Heather at (413) 306-3131 x303 or e-mail her at [vansickle@nacce.com](mailto:vansickle@nacce.com).