



BOARD POLICY

2715

DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CODE OF ETHICS STANDARDS OF PRACTICE – TRUSTEES

The Board maintains high standards of ethical conduct for its members. Members of the Board are responsible to:

- A. Devote time, thought and study to his/her duties as a DCCD Board Member so that effective and creditable service may be rendered.
- B. Work with fellow Board Members in a spirit of civility and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during vigorous debates of points of view.
- C. Base personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation, vote by honest independent conviction in every case unswayed by partisan bias, and abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.
- D. An individual Trustee has no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board to direct staff, including the Superintendent/President, and should conduct relationships with College employees, students, local citizenry and the media on that basis.
- E. Be aware that Trustees are responsible to all citizens of the District, and not solely to those who elected them. The authority delegated to Trustees by the voters must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community.
- F. Resist pressure to use the position of a Trustee to benefit either personally or any other individual employee or community group or agency which diminishes the general welfare of DCCD. Trustees should also accurately account for expenses.
- G. Keep in mind under all circumstances that the Board is legally responsible for the effective operation of the District. Its primary function is to establish the policies by which the DCCD is to be administered. The Board will hold the Superintendent/President and his/her staff accountable for the administration of the educational, student services, and business operations.
- H. Welcome and encourage the involvement of students, employees and citizens with respect to establishing or modifying policy, through established channels of communications and consider their views in deliberations and decisions as Trustees.
- I. Recognize that deliberations of the Board in closed sessions are not to be released or discussed in public without the prior majority Board approval.

- J. Take advantage of opportunities that enhance Trustees' knowledge of the community college system by attending educational workshops and training sessions offered by the state and national organization and report back to the Board.
- K. Stay informed about the issues and actions at the state and national level that may impact DCCD.
- L. Develop and maintain an effective relationship with the District Superintendent/President by discussing, understanding and supporting effective administrative recommendations and maintaining a working climate of "no surprises."
- M. Recognize that the day-to-day operation of the District is the responsibility of the Superintendent/President and that the Trustees are the policymaking body and overseers of the District operation
- N. Work with and respect others in our educational community through civility, decorum and consideration.
- O. Appropriately communicate with the media.
- P. Adhere to conflict of interest protocol.
- Q. In addition to monitoring the operations of the college, it is critical for the Board to guide and evaluate institutional effectiveness, particularly educational programs, through their policy-making processes.

Reference: Accreditation Standard IVB1A/E/H

Approval Date: June 14, 2005

Administrator: Superintendent/President

Revised: January 18, 2008

Approval Date: February 22, 2008

Updated: October 17, 2008

Cabinet Revised: February 25, 2011

College Planning Council Review: February 25, 2011

Board of Trustees Information: March 17, 2011

Next Review: March 2016

Executive Cabinet Review: February, 2016

College Planning Council Review/Approval, 1st Reading: March 11, 2016

College Planning Council Review/Approval, 2nd Reading: April 8, 2016

Board of Trustees Review/Approval, 1st Reading: April 15, 2016

Board of Trustees Review/Approval, 2nd Reading: May 20, 2016