

Nomination of Kitty Boyle for ACCT Trustee Leadership Award

1. Has the trustee served as an officer of the college's board of trustees?

"Kitty is hardworking, knowledgeable and dedicated. We have all benefited from being her colleagues and friends."

Charletta Compton, DCCCD Trustee

DCCCD Trustees serve six-year elected terms. Trustee Boyle has been elected to three terms in 1996, 2002, and 2008 (term expires in 2014), representing District 5 - the Irving/LosColinas region of Dallas County. In 1997, early in her tenure, she was elected Chair of the DCCCD Board's Budget and Planning Committee. From 2000 to 2004, she served as Chair of the DCCCD Board of Trustees. She currently serves as a member of the Board's Audit Committee and, with the Board's encouragement, represents the DCCCD on several boards of state and national trustee organizations.

2. In addition to service on the board of trustees, in which capacity has the trustee participated in community life (i.e. civic clubs, public office, etc.)?

"Kitty has never...hovered around looking for accolades, she gets into her investments in the community hip-deep."

Jim Picquet, Vice President, LCET and Irving resident for 37 years

As a mother of six, Mrs. Boyle's civic activism began with her service as a homeroom mother and member of the PTA in the late 1960s. Through the years, she went on to share her time and talents with a growing number of organizations focused on family and community needs. She has served on many boards and worked hard in Irving and Dallas to support education, parks, libraries, hospitals and economic development.

In each of these arenas, she has approached the challenges with a combination of civic activism and compassion, often for children. For example, she served on the Irving Independent School District's (IISD) successful bond campaign committee and on the Irving for Excellent Schools Committee. She garnered IISD's coveted Golden Apple award honoring a community member. She helped launch the Irving ISD Academy and the South Irving Education Center (see criteria #3). She is currently the Vice Chair of the Board of the Ranch Academy, a charter school that serves at-risk and special needs children in Irving. She also serves on the Board of the Children's Medical Center Foundation, dedicated to the comprehensive care of children.

She has served on the Dallas County Parks and Open Space Board and the Dallas Downtown Parks Master Plan Steering Committee. She is past Chair of the Irving Parks and Recreation Board, which led to her to found Parks People of Irving, a non-profit, tax-exempt group that raises funds and volunteers to support community parks. Among its accomplishments is a children's playground called Castle Kingdom. She has linked these interests to economic development, playing an active role in downtown Irving's revitalization as vice president and treasurer of the Irving Heritage Society and serving on the Executive Board of the Irving Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of the City of Irving's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

3. What has the trustee initiated or helped to develop in the area of innovative programs used in two-year postsecondary institutions?

“Trustee Boyle’s expectation, stated on more than one occasion, is for governmental entities to work together in partnerships that benefit the entire community.”

Herlinda Glasscock, President, North Lake College

Two major initiatives at North Lake College speak to Mrs. Boyle’s long-standing willingness to innovate through partnerships. In 1999, together with the college president and Irving’s school superintendent, she championed a partnership that resulted in the building of an 183,000 square foot facility, the Irving ISD Academy, on 12 leased acres of North Lake’s campus. The Academy’s programs include dual credit, career education, medical professions shadowing, and teacher preparation and currently involve 1400 students. An expansion is in the works that will enlarge the space and increase capacity by an additional 200 students.

The second initiative, begun in 1997 as the South Irving Center is as of May 2009 the South Campus of North Lake College. Starting with 3500 feet of space owned by the City of Irving with the Irving Library and Irving Cares as co-locators, the crowded center has blossomed into a 45,000 sq. ft. campus. The new South Campus currently offers the only certified GED testing center in Irving and provides much-needed workforce education and language acquisition. Mrs. Boyle has been a champion all along the way, supporting this effort that has culminated in a new campus that will anchor economic development in a corridor troubled by a history of neglect.

4. Has the trustee served on technical or special committees serving two-year postsecondary education?

“Trustee Boyle brought great enthusiasm to her role as Board representative to the Vanguard Learning College Project, joining in many rich conversations as an interested colleague.”

Steve Mittelstet, President, Richland College

Mrs. Boyle participated as Richland College’s Board representative on the five-year Vanguard College project. She joined trustees from eleven other colleges to share models and practices focused on transforming community colleges into more learning-centered institutions. This League for Innovation project has achieved national recognition as a laboratory for testing the learning college concept.

During her Board tenure, Mrs. Boyle has served on two Tax Increment Financing Districts for Dallas City Place and American Airlines Arena, in each case representing the DCCCD’s interest in successful economic revitalization projects serving the downtown Dallas corridor.

Mrs. Boyle is currently a member of ACCT’s Trust Fund Board, focused on the education and training of community college governing board members, a long-term interest influenced by her years of service on volunteer boards.

5. How has the trustee been a factor in influencing legislation for two-year postsecondary institutions, and how has the trustee been active in communication and advocacy with state and national legislators?

“Unless veto money is restored, community colleges will have to raise tuition and property taxes and reduce course offerings and financial aid. Which of those choices

isn't harmful?" Kitty Boyle, before the Texas Senate Higher Education Subcommittee
Kitty Boyle has excelled in the legislative arena, acting as an able advocate at both the state and national levels. Her record as a willing foot soldier is the foundation of this success. **She shows up.** Locally, she not only accompanies senior staff to area legislative offices, but works behind the scenes arranging visits, making phone calls, signing letters, and drafting resolutions.

She is as visibly present in Austin, joining top DCCCD staff to deliver plants to the 21 member Dallas delegation offices on the opening day of the 80th and 81st legislatures. For several years, she has joined large delegations of DCCCD students on the steps of the state capitol on Community College Day. During the current session, she walked the halls with trustee colleague Molly Beth Malcolm to convince legislators to join the Texas Legislative Community College Caucus.

At the national level, for more than a decade, she has become a fixture at ACCT's Legislative Summit, joining with colleagues to visit Texas legislators. Noting the powerful effect of DCCCD student voices on legislators in 2007, she was instrumental in causing colleges in California, Florida and Texas to also bring student delegations.

But, Trustee Boyle's advocacy skills also revolve around her ability to **close the deal.** In particular, she has championed the legislative caucus strategy. At the national level, during her 2006-2007 tenure as ACCT Chair, she made the launching of a senate community college caucus a priority of her tenure and saw it up and running by April 2007. Currently numbering 34 senators (2 from Texas), the senate group joins a house caucus of 200 members (14 from Texas) which Mrs. Boyle also supported, together creating the National Community College Caucus-a growing influence on Capitol Hill.

Similarly, during the 80th legislative session (2007) in her home state, Mrs. Boyle led the effort to form the Texas Legislative Community College Caucus. Through her determined effort, including getting a representative of Irving to co-chair the group, the caucus currently numbers 112 representatives and 26 senators and was formed just in time to support statewide efforts to turn around the Governor's veto of health benefit funds for community colleges.

In fact, the governor's veto, representing as it did a loss of \$154 million to community colleges across the state, including \$15.7 million to the DCCCD, was a catalyst for unprecedented trustee activism. Mrs. Boyle not only led in launching the Texas caucus, she also played a key role in developing another advocacy organization, the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT). Germinating from meetings among Texas trustees during three ACCT national meetings (2006-2008), with its mission of uniting and mobilizing trustees to support important legislation for community colleges, CCATT played a pivotal role in restoring the 80th session's vetoed funds and in preventing a recurrence during the 81st session. As its founding Vice Chair, Mrs. Boyle has also worked closely with the CEO-led Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) to assure the two organizations spoke with a unified voice.

6. What has the trustee contributed overall to the two-year postsecondary concept and how did this affect the total college program in the community, state, or nation?

“If one were to look for an unquestioned champion of the community college movement and its commitment to student success, look no further than Kitty Boyle.”

Wright Lassiter, Chancellor, DCCCD

Mrs. Boyle has been a tireless proponent of two fundamental tenets of the community college movement – affordability and access. To begin with, she is a champion of keeping DCCCD tuition among the lowest in the state. As a result of her leadership and the Board’s commitment in this regard, the District’s tuition is currently among the state’s lowest – 47th out of 50. She not only lobbies at state and national levels for the need to keep tuition costs low, but recently influenced her own Board to maintain current tuition rates for the coming year, in spite of the financial climate. Pell Grants and Texas Grants have grown steadily during her tenure and financial aid has routinely been part of her case to legislators.

First implemented during her tenure as DCCCD Board Chair, Trustee Boyle has been a strong supporter of the Rising Star Scholarship Program, an exemplary access program serving primarily first generation college students. Guaranteeing a full scholarship, including tuition and books, to every Dallas County high school graduate with a “B” average, it has to date served 10,000 high school graduates. Retention - a priority of Mrs. Boyle for a decade – is another aspect of her commitment to access. To further enhance DCCCD retention, in 2008 the Board created a \$1.65 million fund to support and broaden successful programs underway at all seven colleges.

7. How has the trustee provided leadership in helping to solve challenges to two-year postsecondary education?

“In addressing the key challenges we face, many related to the populations we serve, Kitty has always been present and accounted for – a constant champion for improvement and for measuring results.”

Jerry Prater, Board Chair, DCCCD

Over the past decade, running parallel to Mrs. Boyle’s trustee tenure, the DCCCD Board has taken on a number of bold measures to meet diversity challenges facing community colleges. These are efforts she played a key role in moving forward.

The DCCCD is a majority minority institution, the largest in Texas higher education. Several initiatives exemplify the Board’s intent to serve this diversity well. In 1999 the Board decided to admit undocumented students graduating from a Texas high school without state reimbursement. Their action, in fact, caused state funding guidelines to eventually change and has, to date, enabled the DCCCD to serve some 8500 undocumented students. As part of its \$450 million bond program in 2004, the Board determined to build five new campuses in underserved parts of the county. In that same year, they strengthened M/WBE processes and have exceeded 25% in M/WBE contracts for each of the last four budget years. They approved the launching of five early college high schools, actually serving as the school board in the case of Richland College’s charter school. They have embraced the state’s *Closing the Gaps* initiative, making policy decisions that increase minority student participation and success. Notably in

April 2008, the Board took the unusual step of incorporating their goals for equity into the policies of the DCCCD.

In recognition of efforts such as these that were led by the Board, the DCCCD was awarded ACCT's Western Region Equity Award in 2007 and the Charles Kennedy Equity Award in 2008.

8. How has the trustee been active in developing, organizing, or supporting state two-year postsecondary associations, and what kind of leadership role has the trustee played in state, regional, or national associations?

"Kitty is an inspiration to many of us – a great ACCT leader. She has been the guiding force in getting Texas trustees together and focused on what is important for our state."

Allen Kaplan, Austin CC Board and Treasurer, CCATT

Trustee Boyle was elected as a Western Regional Director and served two three-year terms on the ACCT Board of Directors from 2001-2007. She chaired the ACCT Board of Directors in 2006-2007 and then served an additional year as the Immediate Past Chair with her term expiring in October 2008 during the New York Congress. In addition, she served on several ACCT committees including Finance and Audit, Member Communications and Education, Governance and Bylaws, Public Policy and the Association Awards Committee, and the ACCT Chair's Advisory Committee. She is currently serving on the ACCT Trust Fund Board, her tenure ending in July 2011. In fall 2008, she received AAWCC's award for Outstanding Leadership and Service.

In 2008, the DCCCD was awarded ACCT's first Trust Fund Grant Award. In 2009 Chancellor Wright Lassiter was appointed to ACCT's Advisory Committee of Presidents and DCCCD trustee Charletta Compton was elected to ACCT's Diversity Committee. Each of these actions/appointments are evidence of Mrs. Boyle's continual encouragement of DCCCD leaders to become more involved in ACCT.

9. Has the trustee given presentations or published articles on two-year postsecondary education?

"Kitty has a love for education and learning and is a passionate voice for community colleges."

Molly Beth Malcolm, Trustee, Texarkana Community College

The following are a sampling of presentations by Mrs. Boyle. They are representative of the breadth of her interests as a spokesperson for community colleges:

"Three Decades of Distance Learning Leadership by the Dallas Community Colleges," Panel Presentation, Community College Futures Assembly, Florida, 2003

"What Can Colleges and States Do to Help Students Succeed?" Respondent, National Symposium of Postsecondary Student Success, Washington, DC, 2006

Spellings Commission Summit, Reactor, Washington, DC, 2007

"Board Orientation & Training – ACCT Trust Fund Grant Awardee," panel presentation, ACCT's National Congress, New York City, 2008

Testimony before Texas Senate Higher Education Sub-Committee, Austin, 2008

A Trustee's Perspective, North Lake College Student Forum, Dallas, 2009