A GUIDE TO THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION

Community colleges serve their local communities by providing quality educational opportunities. The specific focus of each college grows from the unique needs of its community for occupational/vocational, transfer, adult developmental, and community education, and economic development.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

State laws govern the selection of community college trustees, whether by election or appointment. Length of term and number of board members vary from state to state, as do specific criteria regarding candidate eligibility. Criteria may include residency requirements, voter eligibility, and prohibitions against membership on other education boards or employment by the college.

ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

The public trust of governance requires that trustees serve without personal gain to fulfill the college mission. Exclusionary influences such as partisan politics or personal agendas can precipitate actions unrelated to the college mission and are inappropriate in lay board governance.

BOARD EXCELLENCE

Recognizing that no individual has all the desired qualifications, effective governing boards achieve excellence and balance by melding the diverse abilities and experiences of individual board members into a strong unit.

TRUSTEE EXCELLENCE

Excellent board members are knowledgeable about the community and its needs and issues, within the broad context of the educational, social, political, and economic environment.

TRUSTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Throughout their tenure as board members, conscientious trustees will continue to acquire the skills necessary for effective trusteeship. Effective boards encourage and support the professional development of trustees.

YOUR ROLE

Thoughtful and informed trustee selection will ensure that community colleges remain accessible and responsive to the people they serve, and that decisions made on behalf of the community reflect its values, educational and economic needs, and standards of excellence.

FOR REFERENCE: WWW.ACCCT.ORG