

BP 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice

Reference:

Accreditation Standard IV.B.1.a, e, & h

The Board of Trustees is elected by and accountable to the voters of the Santa Clarita Community College District to determine the direction and policies of the District in pursuit of its mission. To promote a healthy academic environment for the students, faculty and staff which inspires and challenges the College's community to greater service and achievements, to establish a norm for trustee performance, and in the spirit of mutual trust and support, the Board of Trustees adopts this Code of Ethics.

Excellence of Board of Trustee functioning is seen as an integral component of the striving for institutional excellence. This Code of Ethics is supported by the Organizational Values developed by the administrative leadership of the District and is approved by the Board of Trustees. The adoption of the Code of Ethics by the Board is our commitment to a set of values guiding our performance. As the Board strives for excellence and adherence to these values, it serves as a model and leader in encouraging all members of the District community to pursue and achieve excellence.

The Board maintains high standards of ethical conduct for its members. Each member of the Board is responsible to:

- Hold the educational welfare of the students of the District as his/her primary concern in all decisions and act only in the best interests of the entire community. Communicate the Board's interest in and respect for student accomplishments by attending student ceremonies and events Act only in the best.
- Ensure the District maintains equality of opportunity for all students regardless of race, creed, sex, religion, age, physical ability, national origin, or sexual orientation.
- Ensure a model atmosphere in which controversial issues can be presented fairly demonstrating respect and consideration for Board members, citizens, students and College staff.
- Respect others, act with civility, and use appropriate channels of communication.
- Confine Board action to policy determination, planning, evaluation and maintaining the fiscal stability of the District. Delegate authority for the execution of these items on a day-to-day basis to the Chief Executive Officer of the District.
- Conduct all District business in open public meetings, unless, in the judgment of the Board and only for those purposes permitted by law, it is appropriate to discuss District business in closed session. Maintain the confidentiality of privileged information discussed in closed session.
- Devote time, thought, energy, effort and ability to the Board of Trustees in order to render effective service for the betterment of the College. Work to be informed about the district, educational issues, responsibilities of trusteeship, and devote adequate time to board work.

- Be an advocate of the College in the community by encouraging support for and interest in College of the Canyons.
- Avoid situations which have or appear to have potential for personal gain and act honestly and openly at all times, preventing conflicts of interest and the perception of conflicts of interest.
- Remember that Board members have authority only when acting as a Board legally in session, or when acting in pursuance of specific instructions of the Board. Accept the concept that each Board member is only one member and can exercise authority only as a board.
- Hold the educational welfare of the students as the primary concern in all decisions and assure that opportunity for high quality education for all students regardless of sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin or handicap.
- Recognize that the primary duty of the Board is to represent the entire community while maintaining an independent judgment unbiased by special interests or other politically active, narrowly focused groups.

See Administrative Procedure AP 2715
Approved 06/11/08