

## CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### PREFACE

As a board member, I am a member of a select group of people, chosen by the citizens of the South Orange County Community College District to perform a vital service. I, as a member of the board, have been granted a position of "trusteeship" over the colleges and the District. I have an obligation to fulfill this trust to the best of my ability. To become a capable and successful board member, I must be willing to devote many hours to serving as trustee, attend board meetings, college functions, conferences and workshops, and study issues and problems demanding thoughtful consideration and decision-making.

### To This End, I Pledge My Best Efforts To:

1. Exhibit good citizenship in community, state, and national affairs;
2. Accept the legal and ethical commitments and responsibilities of the colleges to residents of the district, to the staff, to the taxpayers and, most importantly, to the students I serve;
3. Dedicate myself to the highest ideals of honor, honesty, and integrity in all public and personal relationships;
4. Recognize that board members work with fellow board members and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote of the board at a duly convened meeting;
5. Render all decisions regarding the issues at hand based on the available facts and my independent judgments and to refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
6. Make responsive decisions to meet the needs of citizens considering their geographic distribution and the cultural and economic makeup of the community;
7. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members and to seek systematic communications between the board and students, staff and all elements of the community;
8. Abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

9. Keep confidential all information and discussions whenever conducted during closed sessions of the board;
10. Bring direct and indirect credit to the colleges through personal effort — in business, social, professional and personal relationships;
11. Avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety that could result because of my position, and avoid intentionally using my board membership for personal gain or personal prestige;
12. Bring to the attention of the Chancellor and fellow board members any existing conflict of interest or impediment to service;
13. Fulfill the responsibilities of my office without regard to prejudice, provinciality, partisanship or animosity;
14. Recognize that I share responsibilities as a major employer and my actions will affect the capacity of many people to practice the profession or trade in which they have so much personal investment;
15. Work with other board members to establish and implement effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the District to the Chancellor;
16. Demonstrate respect for the Chancellor, Board President, and all fellow board members at board meetings and at District as well as community events;
17. Dedicate myself and my efforts to the principle that my country can advance only by maintaining the constitutional rights that provide for the education of its people and the preservation of their ability to solve the problems of society.

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