

Each member of the District Board is an appointed representative of the citizens of the entire District and therefore embraces the public's trust. The Board members' obligations, as a group, are both legal and ethical. Each member promises to carry out his/her duties with the very highest ethical conduct, and to carry out the Board's requirements under the applicable education code provisions of the State of Wisconsin and such other local, state, and federal laws as apply.

1. Board members must maintain unconflicted loyalty to the interests of the ownership. This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership on other boards or staffs. This accountability supersedes the personal interest of any Board member acting as an individual consumer of college services.
2. Board members must assure that all actions and decisions are done to better serve students since this is the primary reason for the College's existence.
3. Board members must understand that the positive relationship between the student and instructor is critical, but of equal value are all the student-centered types of activities that support instruction and the individual needs of students.
4. Board members must be responsible for the balance of appropriate programs, services, facilities, resources, staffing, and financial support necessary to meet the needs of current students in such a manner that assures their success in meeting their educational and occupational goals.
5. Board members must accept the responsibility of becoming well informed of the major initiatives of the College, the global perspective of the Wisconsin Technical College System, and being well informed of related national activities such that each Board member is better able to make the necessary decisions that maintain or strengthen our commitment to students of the College.
6. Board members must help create and sustain an atmosphere in which controversial issues or different philosophical stances can be presented fairly and in which the dignity of each individual is maintained.
7. Board members must avoid any conflict of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility.
8. Board members must maintain confidentiality of privileged information and refuse to use his/her position on the Board or any confidential information in any way for personal gain.

9. Board members must not use their positions to obtain employment by the College or the furnishing of services or goods to the College for or by themselves, family members, friends, or associates.
10. Board members must recognize that each member is only one member of a team, and that all Board actions are taken as a group in such a manner that the best interests of the entire College community are advanced.
11. Board members' interaction with the President or with staff must recognize the lack of authority in any individual Board member or group of members except as noted previously in Board policies.
12. Board member's interaction with the public, press, or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the similar inability of any Board member of Board members to speak for the Board.
13. Board members will express no judgments of the President's or staff performance except as that performance is assessed in accordance with explicit Board policies.
14. Board members will observe the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.
15. Board members will submit an annual Statement of Economic Interests to the State of Wisconsin Ethics Commission.

Reference: Wis. Stats. 19.41 to and including 19.46

Board Policy Adopted: June 16, 1982

Revised: January 19, 2000

Reviewed: June 21, 2006; September 17, 2008

Revised: February 15, 2017