



MORTON COLLEGE BOARD POLICY

Illinois Community College District No. 527

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In recognition of the gravity of their trust, and aware of their unique responsibility to College employees, students, and residents of the district, the Trustees agree to adhere to the following commitments:

- A. To accept and abide by the legal and fiscal responsibilities of the Board as specified by Board policy and federal and state statutes and regulations;
- B. To remember at all times that as individuals, trustees have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board and thus shall conduct their relationships with the community college staff, the local citizenry, and all media of communications on the basis of this fact;
- C. To represent all constituents honestly and equally, refusing to surrender responsibilities to special interest and partisan political groups;
- D. To devote the time to learn how the college functions - its uniqueness, strength, and needs to properly fulfill its role in post-secondary education in the community;
- E. To carefully prepare for, regularly attend, and actively participate in Board meetings and committee assignments;
- F. To vote according to informed, individual conviction, yet willing to support the majority decision of the Board, working with fellow Trustees in a spirit of cooperation and respect;
- G. To avoid any conflict of interest, appearance of impropriety, or exploitation of the Office of Trustee for personal gain or publicity;
- H. To avoid any such action that might compromise the Board or administration, respecting the sensitivity of the privileged, confidential information available;
- I. To recognize that it is as important for the Board to understand and evaluate the instructional and student services' programs of the College as it is business and administrative operations;

DATE APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: December 27, 1977; November 28, 2018; January 26, 2022

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- J. To bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the community College is to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of College business shall be left to the president and the professional and non-professional staff;
- K. To welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media of communication in the district with respect to establishing policy on current College operations and proposed future developments. To receive and listen to communications from citizens and others and to share same with the President.
- L. To support the state and national Community College Trustees Association.

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MORTON COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Statement of Board Member Commitment

(Addendum to Board Member Code of Conduct)

Serving on the Board of Trustees of Morton College is an honor bestowed by residents of the Illinois Community College District 527. Recognizing my responsibilities as a board member and the expectations of my service as a fiduciary is essential if the College is to achieve its mission. I understand that my board colleagues and I are accountable to Morton College's students, faculty, staff, as well as to the residents of the community, and to each other. As a member of the board, I take pride in my service, and I am committed to the fiduciary standards that define the scope and limits of my authority.

By signing this Statement of Commitment, I endorse the important responsibilities and behaviors that define my service to the College.

As a Board member of Morton College, I publicly commit to the following guiding principles:

- As a fiduciary I recognize, that while an independent elected board member, that the board acts in respectful and orderly manner in order to contribute to advancing the mission and strategic priorities of Morton College;
- I am committed to being part of a healthy culture of board governance, one that is committed to gaining the trust and support of Morton College's stakeholders and to the restoration of its reputation;
- I respect the opinions of other Board members and I avoid any derogatory comments about them, the President and the faculty and staff in all settings;
- I recognize that as a board member, I should work to be supportive of presidential vision and leadership, while also accepting my role in holding the President accountable for the effective leadership of the College;
- I realize as a board member that my authority comes in the form of adding value to board policy and strategy considerations, and that no individual board member has specific authority to act on behalf of the board or the college unless specifically requested to do so by the board or its leadership;

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- I commit to maintaining the highest standard of ethical behavior and I recognize that conflict of interest—whether material or in appearance—can create uncertainty and should be avoided unless there is a board approved “compelling interest”;
- I willingly take part in board education programs in order to demonstrate personal continuous improvement, both for the benefit of my service and to demonstrate to institution stakeholders that Morton College board members recognize one of the most important values of a higher education institution;
- I recognize that as a board member, I must refrain from active (or indirect) engagement with, or efforts to influence the management of staff throughout the College or its various departments or affiliates;
- I will work through the appropriate structures of the board in order to avoid seeking direct influence or information from college staff, other than from the President;
- I understand that as a board member, I should seek to add value to the board’s strategy and policy responsibilities by providing leadership as assigned and asking appropriate and provocative strategic questions; challenging as appropriate but avoiding being a disruptive member of the fiduciary body;
- I respect that the public and sole voice of the board shall be the Board Cochairs and voice of the College will be the President;
- I realize the importance to prepare for and participate in all official Board meetings and other functions and appropriate campus events;
- I understand that while I can suggest items for inclusion on board meeting agendas, I respect the leadership role of the President and Board Chair to finalize agendas;
- I respect and adhere to the Board’s appropriate expectation that all board members maintain the confidentiality of sensitive College-related information;
- I will communicate promptly to the President and the Board Chair any significant concerns related to the College’s well-being;
- I recognize that no Board member is entitled to request that actions be taken that violate written policies, rules, and regulations of the Board or the College, or make inappropriate requests for special perks or privileges;

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- I recognize that the Board will establish a periodic assessment of my performance as a Board member and fiduciary of Morton College;
- I will periodically participate in evaluating the state of the College relative to its mission;

In the event the Board, through its Governance Committee, should determine that any board member is in violation of the Board Code of Conduct and/or this Statement of Commitment, the Board will take all legally permissible actions, up to and including a formal censure, to remediate the board member's conduct.

Signature of Board Member

Date

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