Concepts of Trusteeship

Strong, effective boards help create strong effective institutions by focusing on their own unique responsibilities. The board's role is significantly different than the roles of the president and other employees at the college. **The board does not do the work of the institution, but ensures that it is done.**

The challenge for governing boards lies in establishing and focusing on a vision and mission that clearly defines the expected impact of the district on the areas served by the college. It is the board's responsibility, on behalf of the public, to define what the end result of all of the colleges' efforts should be. Boards should define, in consultation with those they represent and with internal groups at the college, what the benefits of the college are for the community, who should receive those benefits, and the relative importance of the benefits.

As a trustee, you are a member of a lay board that, as a unit,

- Sets the policy direction;
- Employs a chief executive officer as the institutional leader;
- Acts as community bridge and buffer;
- Establishes the climate in which educational goals are accomplished;
- Defines legal, ethical, and prudent standards for college operations;
- Assures fiscal health and stability;
- Maintains standards for good personnel relations;
- Monitors institutional performance; and
- Serves as a positive agent for change.

Trustees are an essential link with the community. They govern on behalf of the public and must be responsive to the needs of external constituents. They both represent the community to the college, and advocate for the college in the community and state. They can be powerful influences in building partnerships with business, industry, and government.

Trustees face the exciting challenge to seek out, consider and balance many diverse values and interests as they engage in the policy-making process that guides their colleges to excellence and success.