

CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

I. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to establish the code of ethics to which the Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) Board of Trustees will adhere when making decisions as the local governing body for WDTC.

II. General Statement of Policy

- A. This policy identifies that the WDTC Board of Trustees members, in their governance role for WDTC, must act in a way that shows all decisions are made with adherence to the highest level of legal, moral, and professional standards. To that end, members of the Board will adhere to this code of ethics.

Members of the WDTC Board of Trustees will:

Service

- Devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a two-year college board member, so that they may render effective and creditable service.

Collaboration

- Work with fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debates of points of issue;
- Base personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation; vote according to honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; and abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the board.

Authority

- Remember at all times that individual board members have no legal authority outside the meetings of the board, and conduct relationships with the college staff, the local citizenry, and all media of the community on the basis of this fact;
- Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a college board member to benefit themselves or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the college.

Roles

- Recognize that it is as important for the board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the college as it is to plan for the business of college operations;
- Welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the College media by communicating with respect to policy on current College operations and proposed future developments;
- Speak with one voice as board members once a board decision or policy is made.

Teamwork

- Support the state and national two-year college trustees associations;
- Strive step by step toward ideal conditions for the most effective college board service to WDTC's communities, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and the perpetuation of our representative democracy.

- B. It shall be a violation of this policy if governing board members do not adhere to the highest level of legal, moral, and professional standards set forth in this policy.

III. Definitions – None

IV. Reporting Procedures – None

V. Dissemination of Policy and Training

- A. This policy shall appear on the WDTC website on the policy webpage.

Legal References: SDCL Chapter 3-23

Board Approved 5/14/2018; Committee Reviewed 5/13/2020; Committee Reviewed 6/1/2022