



New Jersey Council of County Colleges

TWO-NIGHT VIRTUAL

Community College TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Key Details: Tuesday, Nov. 18 & Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, 6-8 PM

ACCT FACILITATORS



Ken Burke, CPA,

ACCT Consultant, Co-facilitator,
Former Trustee, St. Petersburg College (FL)



Mary Spilde, Ph.D.,

ACCT Consultant, Co-facilitator, President Emerita, Lane Community College (OR)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS

- ✓ **Best Practices of Effective Governing Boards**
- ✓ **The Boards' Fiduciary Responsibilities**
- ✓ **The Board and Its Governing Functions**
- ✓ **Setting the Board and President up for Success**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



New Jersey Community College Virtual



Trustee Leadership Academy

Welcome Remarks – Ice Breakers

Aaron Fichtner, President, New Jersey Council of County Colleges

Ken Burke, Facilitator, ACCT Consultant; Former Trustee, St. Petersburg College, Florida

Association of Community College Trustees

Effective Board Governance

New Jersey Council
Of County Colleges

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
Thursday, November 20, 2025

Facilitators:

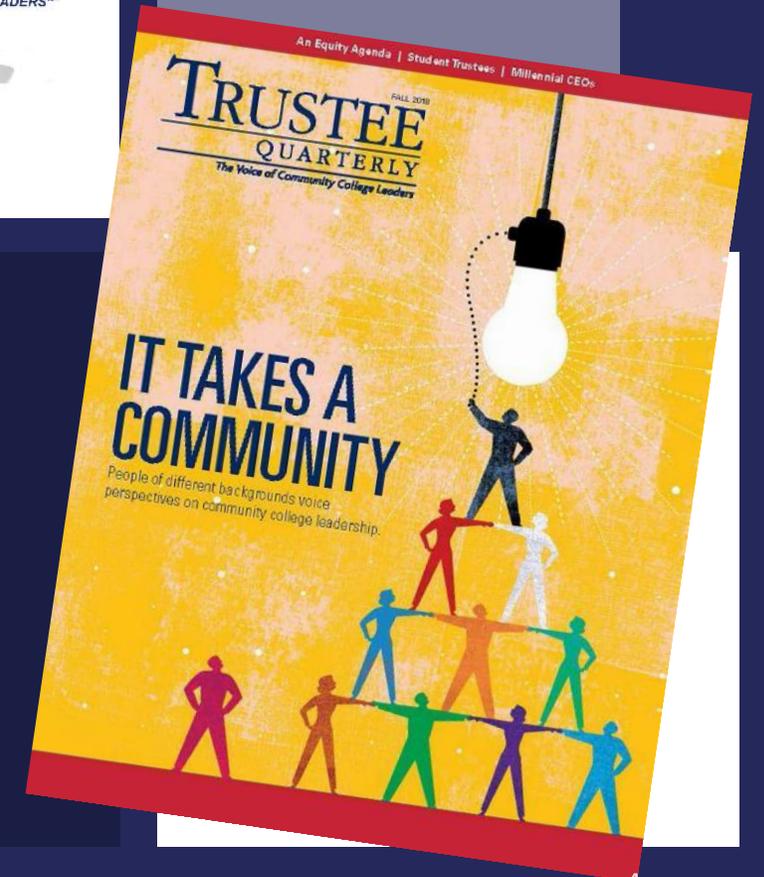
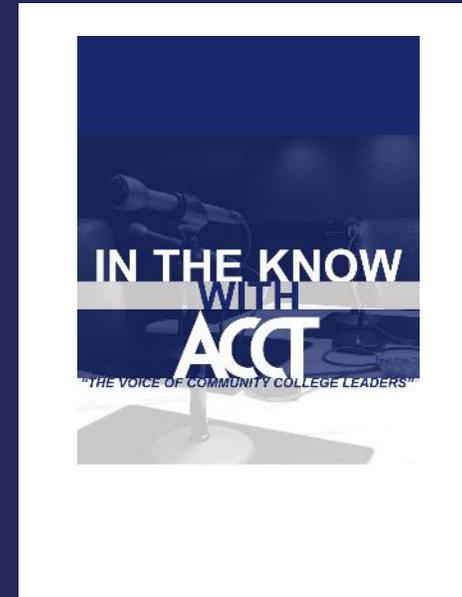
Tuesday - Ken Burke, CPA
Thursday – Mary Spilde, PhD

*The Voice of Community
College Trustees*

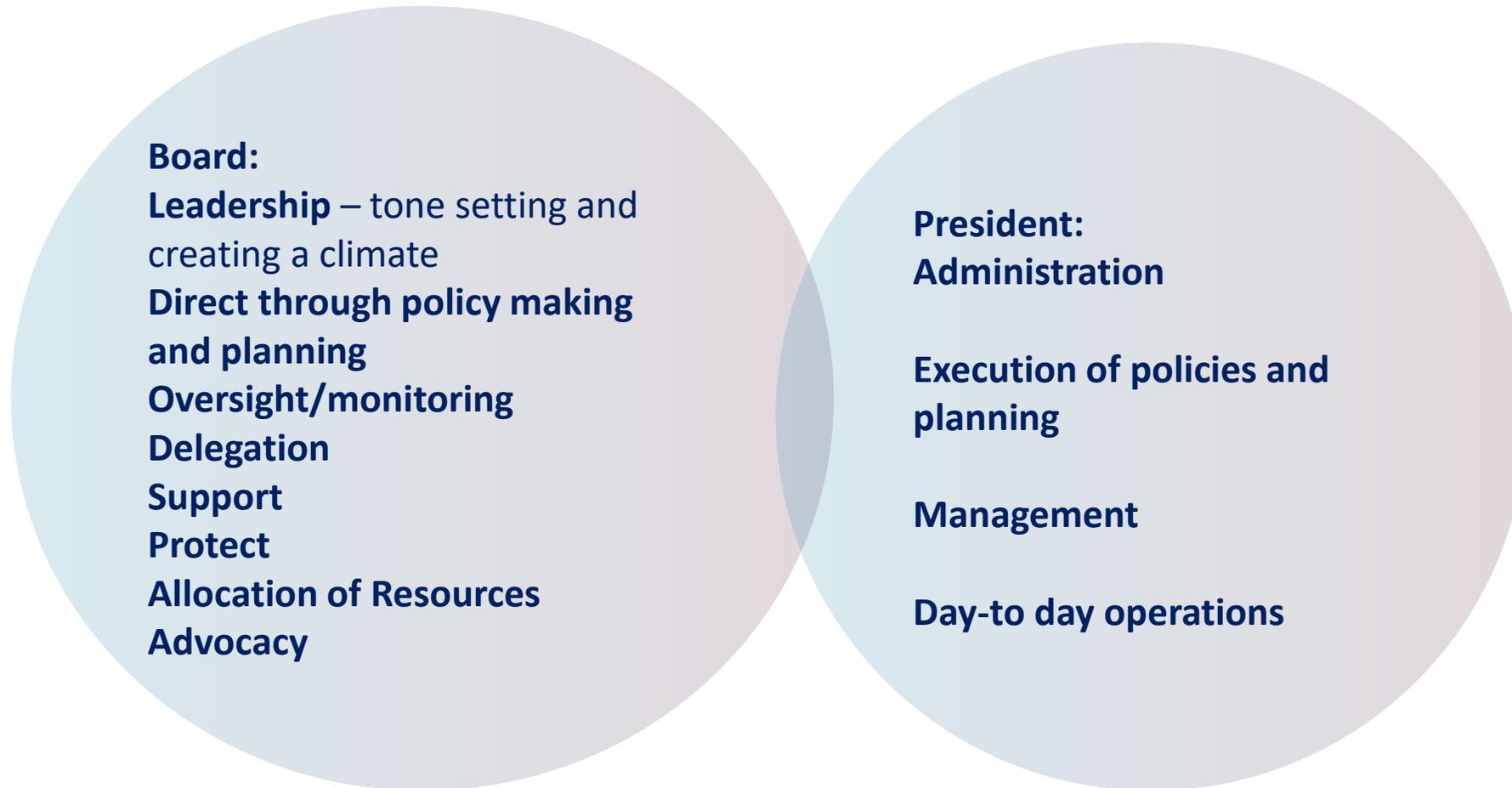


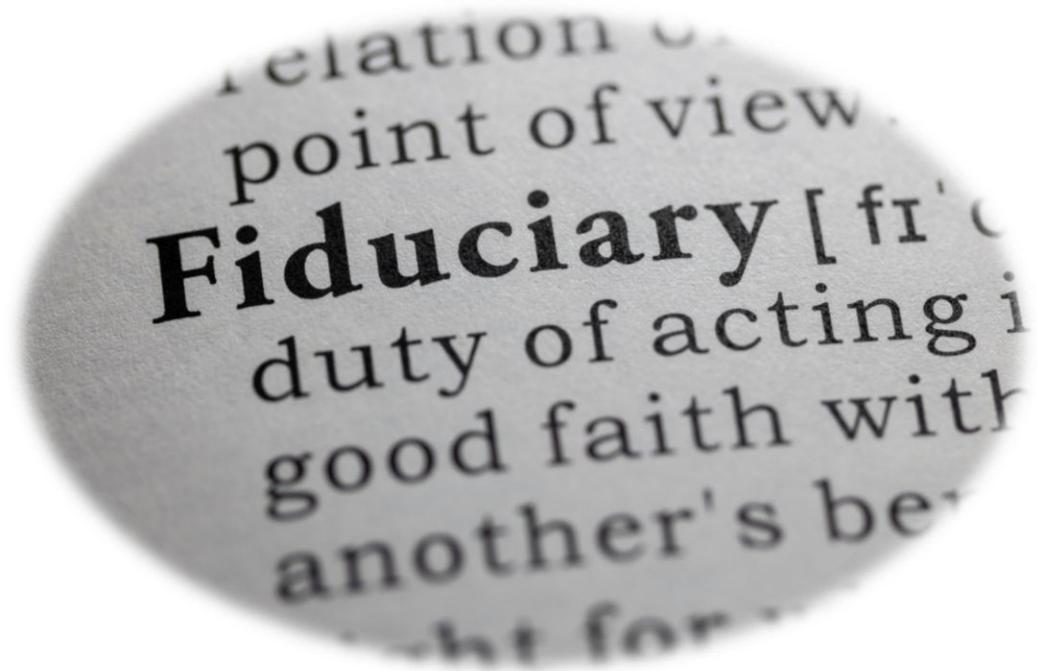
Good Governance

- Board's power comes from acting as a team
- No individual power
- Paradox of hierarchy and partnership
- Board and CEO on the same team



Board Roles and Responsibilities





Fiduciary Duties

- Duty of Care - engagement, attendance, informed, strategic, monitor
- Duty of Loyalty – operate in the interest of the college, and entire community - not a special interest
- Duty of Obedience – follow state and federal laws, system and college policies, act within the scope of these documents

Board's Role

Govern Through Policy

- Govern as a whole body, not as an individual
- Set a tone of respect and civility
- Focus on listening to and learning from the external community
- Exercise fiduciary responsibility –duty of care, duty of loyalty, duty of obedience
- Focus on strategic planning and leadership
- Focus on policy making, not administering – the what
- Powerfully delegate
- Publicly support the CEO
- Hold the CEO accountable through monitoring
- Provide a contract with the CEO
- Hire and evaluate the CEO
- Monitor successes & deficiencies of college
- Know the financial status of the college

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Set standards through policy setting
- Act as a unit with one voice –no power to act on own
- Work as a member of the board team
- Discourage partisan politics – allegiance to college not political party
- Represent the public for whom they hold the college in trust
- Govern transparently
- Set the college’s strategic direction
- Employ, evaluate and support the CEO
- Set realistic goals in collaboration with the president
- Define standards for quality and prudence through policy making
- Assure fiscal health and stability through establishing policy standards for stewardship of public funds
- Create a positive climate
- Monitor institutional performance
- Support and advocate for the college
- Make board a priority- do homework, attend college events, be an ambassador

Policy Categories

- Outcome or Results Policies – (the “what”) defines what will be produced or offered, for whom and at what cost. Ends are not the services the college provides- they are the **results** of the services. The “means”)the “how” by which these policies are achieved is the work of the administration, faculty and staff
- Executive Limitations Policies define the boundaries or parameters for the President and employees within which the must work
- Governance Process – roles and responsibilities of the board
- Board-Staff Relationship Policies describe the delegation to and accountability of the CEO



Board Power

- The board's power lies in its policy making role
- If the board believes the college is moving in the wrong direction that can be rectified through developing new policy or adding executive limitations



What is Governing through policy?

- Three Principles:
- Board decisions are predominantly policy decisions - Look at all issues through a policy lens (the “what”) leaving the “how” to administration
- Policies are broad statements that set direction and standards for college operations
- Boards define and delegate – identify the direction up-front and parameters within which the staff operates

Board Role in Policy Making

- Establish a thoughtful and public policy making process
- Analyze policy proposals in light of ethical and legal standards
- Assure multiple perspectives have been considered
- Adopt broad policies that provide visionary direction and establish clear parameters
- Monitor policy implementation
- Ensure the policy is periodically reviewed and updated
- Center policy making on creating positive impacts on students and the community

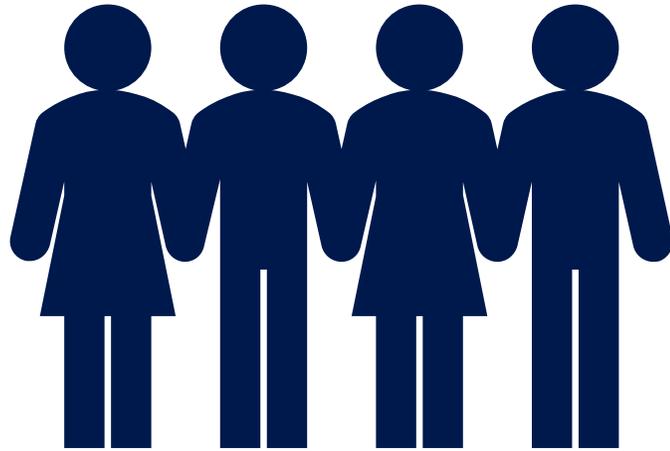


CEO's Role in Policy Making

- Help define and manage a thoughtful and public policymaking process
- Provide policy analyses and present alternatives for board discussion
- Alert the board to political ramifications of proposed policy alternatives
- Provides information that enables the board to monitor policy implementation
- Ensures the board regularly evaluates and updates its policies



SUMMARY



Policies are the voice of the board

They are living statements that frame the work of the board and the staff

Policies must be used by the board and staff – policy implications are discussed when issues are being explored

GOVERNANCE

- Statutory
- Fiduciary
- Policy Making
- Direction
- Delegation
- Oversight/Monitoring
- Support and Protection

CONSULTATION

- Strategic Planning
- Advocacy

ADMINISTRATION

- Administration
- Management
- Day-to-day Guidance

Board Role



Set up for Success

- Good Board Governance
- Effective Board/President Relations
- Clear expectations and strategic priorities
- Agreed upon evaluation system
- Communication Protocols
- Identifying what support looks like



ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

- Board Retreats at least annually – time for deeper and richer conversations about issues that matter
 - Annual Board Assessment resulting in Board Goals relating to board operations and behavior
 - Agreement on what constitutes a high performing board and a commitment to act in compliance with that agreement
 - Professional Learning for Trustees – local onboarding/orientation, state associations, ACCT
 - Take time to team build and get to know each other
 - Use tools such as agenda development that focuses the board on action
- Study sessions (also called work sessions or conference sessions) where boards take a more in-depth look at issues e.g. student success, equity to provide shared and deeper understanding of the issues and the policy implications
 - Identifying a short set of high-level strategic priorities and expectations annually which constitutes the CEO's work plan and upon which they will be evaluated
 - Development of trusting relationships among board members and with the CEO
 - Candid discussion and agreement on what reciprocal support looks like for individual board members, for president and for the board as a whole



The voice of community college leaders.

Contact Us

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New Jersey Community College Virtual



Trustee Leadership Academy

The Vital Role of New Jersey's Community Colleges

New Jersey Community College Virtual Trustee Leadership Academy

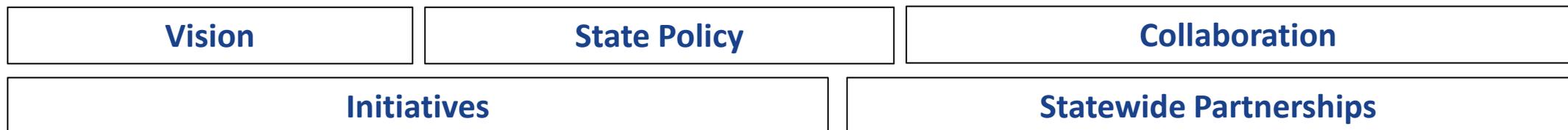
- **COUNCIL MISSION**

- Provides leadership for collaboration and innovation of community colleges to advance economic and educational opportunity and economic impact.

- **STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL**

- Nonprofit organization enshrined in state law: 18A:64A-26-29.
- Governed by the Presidents and Trustee Chairs of all Community Colleges in the state.
- Committees of Presidents and Trustees perform key functions.
- Funded by assessment of dues from the community colleges (determined annually by the Council), and by state, federal, and philanthropic grant funds to support specific priority initiatives.

- **KEY FUNCTIONS**



VISION

Develops a shared vision for community colleges based on extensive collaboration and involvement of all 18 community colleges

The Council released the Opportunity Agenda in Spring 2024, updated in Fall 2025 that is guiding all efforts of the Council.

The Agenda is built around 4 Pillars:

Pillar 1: Helping All High School Students Access Pathways to Postsecondary and Career Success

Pillar 2: Fostering Student Success and Completion in Postsecondary Education and Training

Pillar 3: Building Transparent, Seamless, and Stackable Pathways That Respond to the Changing Economy

Pillar 4: Helping Adults Attain the Credentials They Need for Career Mobility and Labor Market Success

STATE POLICY

Serves as the primary coordinating entity for community colleges, providing guidance and leadership to the Governor, state agencies, and the State Legislature, on all issues concerning community colleges.

- Consulted on the development and design of legislation, regulations, and state-funded grant programs pertaining to community colleges including pilots and programs
- Develops an annual unified state budget recommendation to the Governor and the State Legislature for needed investments in community colleges to meet strategic priorities.

- **COLLABORATION**

Serves as an entity to join together community colleges to support collaboration and improve efficiency:

- Operates the Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development to advance partnerships with businesses, labor unions.
- Operates the Community College Joint Purchasing Consortium to seek economies in the purchase of goods and services with a goal of increasing efficiency, reducing redundancy, sharing services, and promoting regional collaboration and contracting where appropriate.
- Convenes community college leaders (affinity groups) to share promising practices and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Undertakes and promotes professional development for faculty and staff.
- Collaborates on marketing and promotion of community colleges.
- Serves to enhance the availability of data to inform community college decisions.

FUNDING FORMULAS

Responsible for developing and maintaining formulas for the allocation of state investment in community colleges to ensure that all community colleges receive operational support in an equitable and transparent manner, including:

- State operational aid to community colleges: current performance-based funding formula is focused on access, equity, and success metrics
- Chapter 12 capital funds.
- Perkins program (administered by the NJ Department of Education) for occupational-focused programs.

ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

Ensures stronger collaboration on academic issues, including but not limited to:

- Maintains a statewide general education framework for community colleges to ensure seamless transfer of credits and approve general education courses delivered by community colleges;
- Approves credit courses for use in the distribution of state operating aid to community colleges;
- Developing a unified directory of programs;
- Develops policies and initiatives to expand academic and workforce-related dual enrollment, credit for prior learning opportunities, and improved transfer experience.

INITIATIVES

- Serves as a primary vehicle for implementing initiatives pertaining to community colleges and aligned with state priorities, including state-funded pilot and grant programs with a focus on:

Student Success, Academic innovations, Basic needs support, Financial Aid and programs targeted to specific populations of students, Data and outcome metrics, Professional development for community college faculty and staff, and other programs.

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS

- Serves as unified lead partner for community colleges with statewide business, labor, education, and community organizations to advance opportunity and prosperity in New Jersey for all.
- Builds strong partnerships with employers, K-12 schools, four-year colleges and universities, unions, workforce boards, and community-based organizations to design new academic and workforce education and training pathways aligned with the needs of the changing economy.

- **CURRENT STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS**

NJ Pathways to Career Opportunities: Aligning Education to Build an Innovative Workforce, a partnership with the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and funded in the state budget brings together employers, industry associations, labor unions, education institutions, and workforce development partners to provide students and workers with the education and career pathways they need to find new careers and opportunities to achieve a competitive wage, and to ensure that employers have access to a highly skilled workforce to meet critical labor market needs.



[Click here to learn about NJ Pathways to Opportunities](#)

Community to Opportunity: Building Community to Expand Opportunity, funded by the Tepper Foundation, assists Community Colleges to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for addressing the basic needs of students, like nonacademic barriers such as hunger, childcare, mental health and wellness, transportation, and housing.

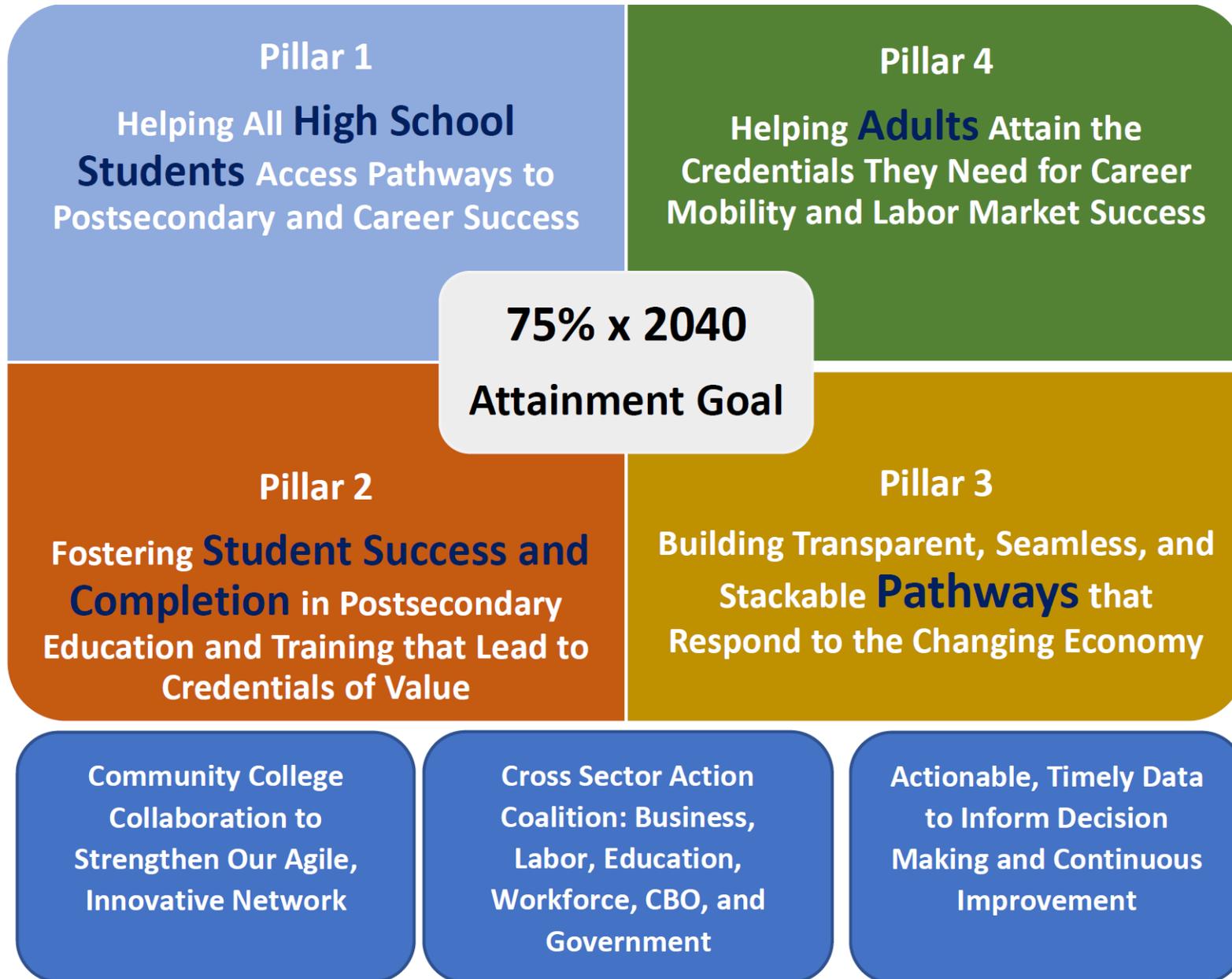


[Click here to learn about Community to Opportunity](#)

UPDATE TO THE OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

**A Collective Roadmap for Action
and a Future Ready New Jersey (2026)**

Updated Opportunity Agenda: Pillars and Foundational Elements

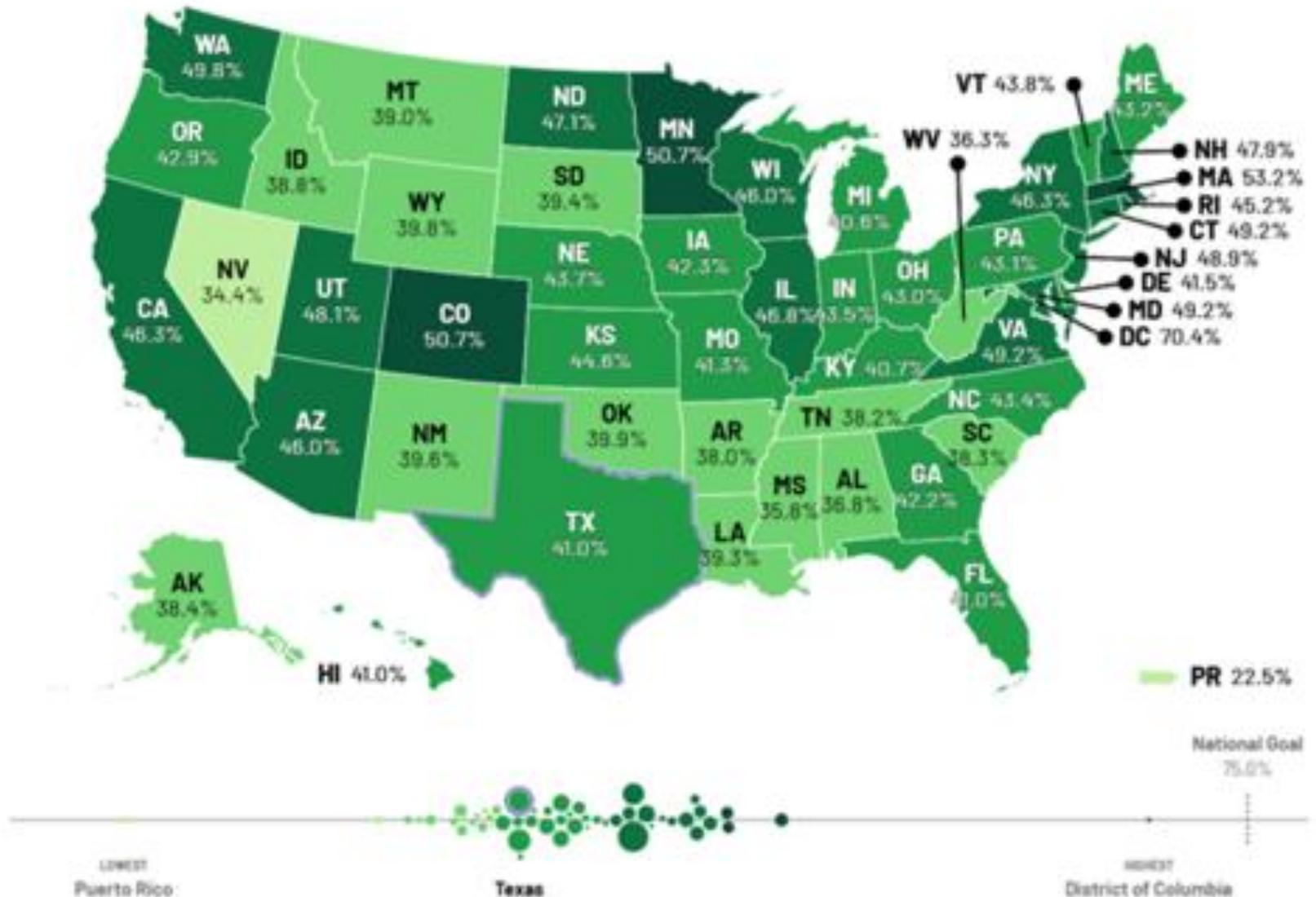


Lumina's 2040 Goal: 75% of adults in the U.S. labor force will have college degrees or other credentials of value leading to economic prosperity.

State Credentials of Value

2023 Share with Post-High School Credential and Earning At or Above Benchmark

ages 25-64 among the labor force, including short-term credentials; benchmark reflects 15% more than the national median annual salary/wage of a high school graduate

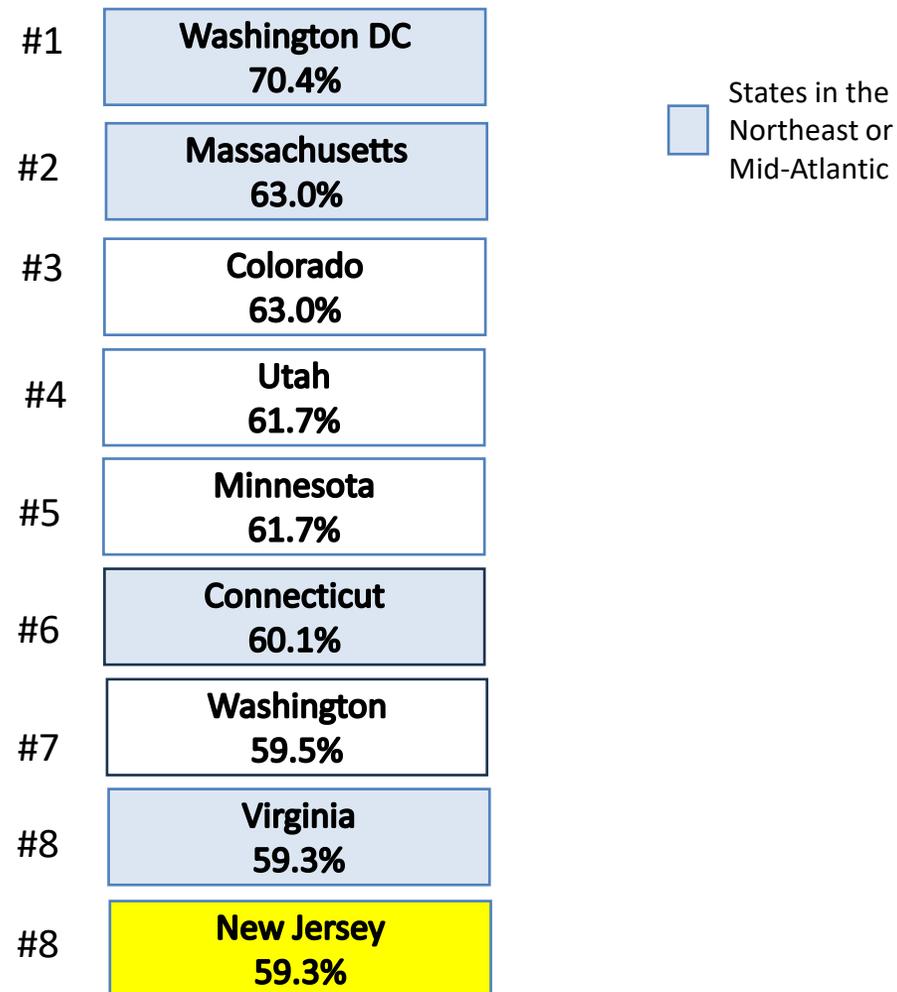


New Jersey has long enjoyed its position as a state with a well-educated workforce that has propelled innovation and economic growth.

- **Key New Jersey industries** (including biopharmaceuticals, technology, financial services, manufacturing) depend on a **well-skilled workforce**.
- **59.3% of NJ's adult population currently has earned a postsecondary credential or degree.**
- **New Jersey currently ranks 8th** among states for percent of the working age population with a postsecondary credential or degree.
- NJ ranks behind MA and CT but outpaces neighboring states of NY and PA.

Source: Lumina A Stronger Nation: Educational Attainment 2023 Report

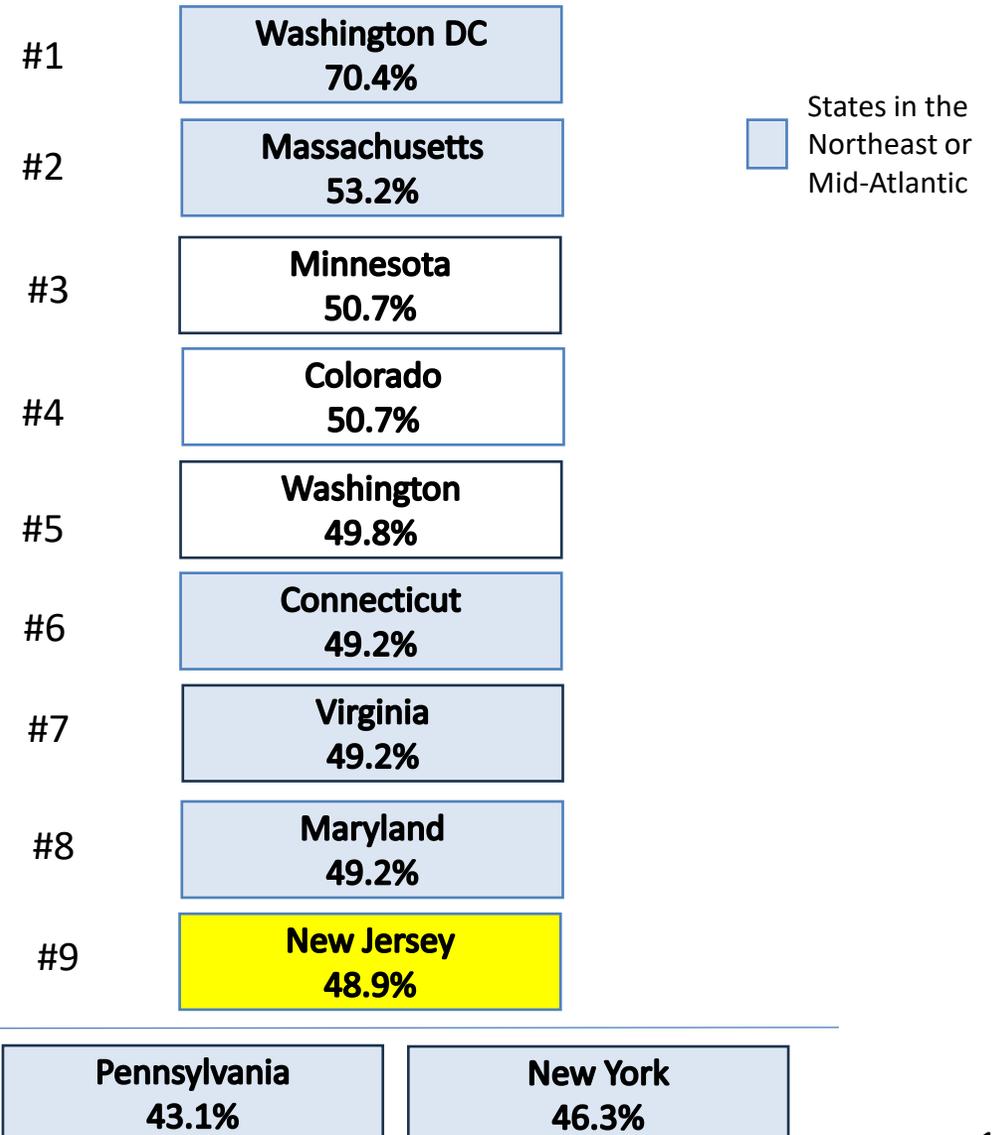
Postsecondary Attainment, 2023



Pennsylvania 53.7%	New York 56.8%
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Attainment is NOT enough: some individuals with postsecondary degrees or credentials are not earning enough to support a family.

- The Lumina Foundation has developed a new refined measure that takes into account economic success.
- **GOAL 2040: By 2040, 75% of adults in the U.S. labor force (ages 25-64) will have college degrees or other credentials of value leading to economic prosperity.**
- Credentials of value lead to salaries and wages at least 15% above the national median earnings of a high school graduate.
- Using this measure, as of 2023, 48.9% of New Jersey's labor force met this goal. New Jersey ranked 9th among the 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico, and was 4.8% higher than the national average of working adults with credentials of value.



Review of NJ Laws & Requirements of Community College Governing Boards and its Members

Requirements of the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act

N.J.S.A. 10:4-6. “Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act.”

The Legislature finds and declares that the right of the public to be present at all meetings of public bodies, and to witness in full detail all phases of the deliberation, policy formulation, and decision making of public bodies, is vital to the enhancement and proper functioning of the democratic process; that secrecy in public affairs undermines the faith of the public in government and the public’s effectiveness in fulfilling its role in a democratic society, and hereby declares it to be the public policy of this State to insure the right of its citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend all meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon in any way except only in those circumstances where otherwise the public interest would be clearly endangered or the personal privacy or guaranteed rights of individuals would be clearly in danger of unwarranted invasion.

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“**Meeting**” means and includes any gathering whether corporeal or by means of communication equipment, which is attended by, or open to, all of the members of a public body, held with the intent, on the part of the members of the body present, to discuss or act as a unit upon the specific public business of that body.

Meeting does not mean or include any such gathering:

- (1) attended by less than an effective majority of the members of a public body, or
- (2) attended by or open to all the members of three or more similar public bodies at a convention or similar gathering.

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“**Adequate notice**” means written advance notice of at least 48 hours, giving the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of any regular, special or rescheduled meeting, which notice shall accurately state whether formal action may or may not be taken and which shall be:

- (1) Prominently posted in at least one public place reserved for such or similar announcements, (2) mailed, telephoned, telegraphed, or hand delivered to at least two newspapers
- Filed with the clerk of the municipality when the public body’s geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of a single municipality, with the clerk of the county when the public body’s geographic boundaries are coextensive with that of a single county, and with the Secretary of State if the public body has Statewide jurisdiction.

Review of NJ Laws & Requirements of Community College Governing Boards and its Members

Requirements of the Open Public Records Act (N.J.S. 47:1A-1 et seq.)

N.J.S. 47:1A-1 requires that:

- Government records must be readily accessible for inspection, copying, or examination by its citizens, with certain exceptions, for the protection of the public interest.
- Any limitations on the right of access to government records must be interpreted in favor of the public's right of access.
- A public agency has a responsibility and an obligation to protect a citizen's personal information that is in the possession of a public agency when disclosure of that information would violate the citizen's reasonable expectation of privacy.

*Resource: [https://www.nj.gov/grc/public/citizens/Citizen's%20Guide%20to%20OPRA%20\(Oct%202024\)\(Final\).pdf](https://www.nj.gov/grc/public/citizens/Citizen's%20Guide%20to%20OPRA%20(Oct%202024)(Final).pdf)

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OPRA defines a “government record” as:

Any paper, written or printed book, document, drawing, map, plan, photograph, microfilm, data processed or image processed document, information stored or maintained electronically or by sound-recording or in a similar device, or any copy thereof, that has been made, maintained or kept on file . . . or that has been received in the course of his or its official business.

Simply stated, a “government record” means any record that has been made, maintained, or kept on file, or that has been received in the course of official business.

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Requirements of the Open Public Records Act (N.J.S. 47:1A-1 et seq.)

OPRA allows for 40 exemptions, including most significantly:

1. Privacy Interest - “a public agency has a responsibility and an obligation to safeguard from public access a citizen's personal information with which it has been entrusted when disclosure thereof would violate the citizen's reasonable expectation of privacy.”
2. Inter-agency or intra-agency advisory, consultative or deliberative material.

Council Meetings and Events for 2025-2026

- **COUNCIL MEETINGS: QUARTERLY**

- *Monday, November 17, 2025 (Reorganization), Middlesex College*
- Monday, February 23, 2026 Middlesex College
- Monday, June 15, 202, Virtual
- Monday, September 14, 2026, Middlesex College

- **NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY SUMMIT**

Atlantic City, NJ, June 9-11, 2026

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

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 @Association of Community
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New Jersey
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Association of Community College Trustees

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Board –CEO Relationship

November 20, 2025

Facilitator:

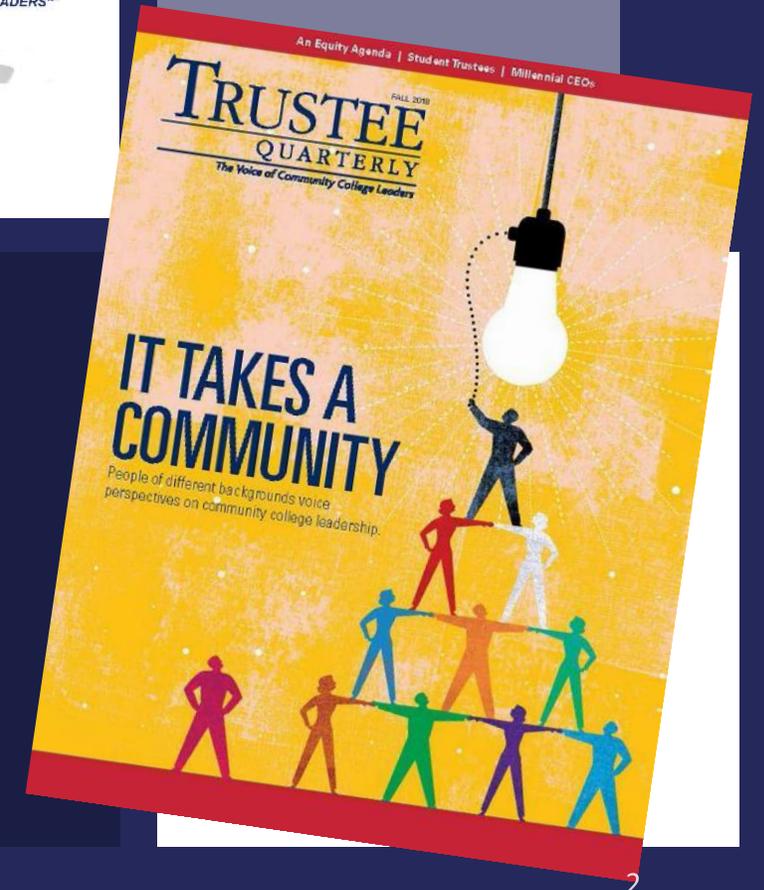
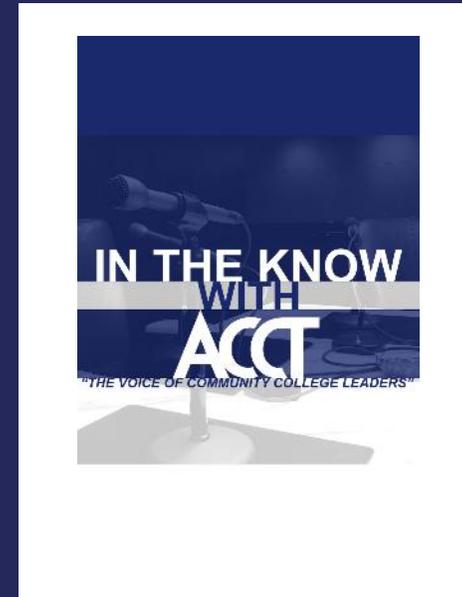
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Good Governance

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Sample Policy

Authority of Members

Board members have authority only when acting as a Board of Trustees legally in session.

No individual member of the Board of Trustees shall have the power to act in the name of the Board or the College.

Sample Policy

Board Governing Principles

Trustees recognize that they are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the College and that individual trustees have no legal authority to commit the College in any way.

For these reasons, trustees should commit to referring contacts from employees, students and community residents to the board chair or president so that an appropriate administrator with knowledge of the subject or the contact can follow up or respond accordingly.

Sample Policy

The formulation and adoption of written policies and resolutions shall constitute the basic method by which the Board exercises leadership in the governance of the College.

The Board shall appoint a President as its chief executive officer with full authority and responsibility for the operation of the College, in compliance with the policies and resolutions of the Board.

GOVERNANCE

CONSULTATION

ADMINISTRATION



CEO's Role

- Respect the Board and its role
 - Listen
 - Engage the board in policy level discussions
 - Make recommendations that include analysis and options
 - Publicly support the board
 - Adhere to board policy
 - Facilitate trustee involvement in community and college
- Do not ask to make decisions without advance preparation
 - Provide all board members with same information
 - Treat all equally
 - Respect time
 - Stay out of board politics
 - Keep Board informed of financial condition of college
 - **Manage/administer all aspects of the operations of the college within policy framework**



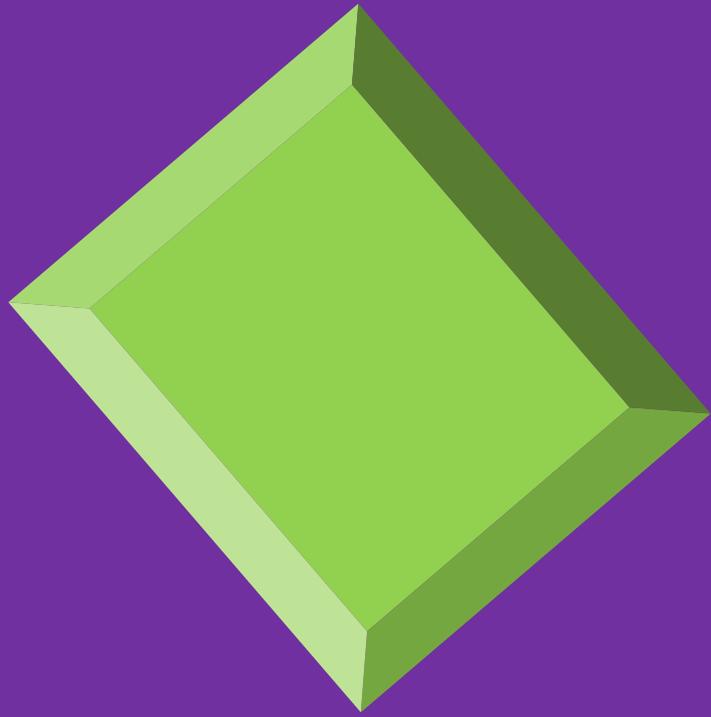
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- Provides information that enables the board to monitor policy implementation
- Ensures the board regularly evaluates and updates its policies



Board-CEO Partnership

- Communication
- Open, appropriate and even-handed
- Explore issues to achieve mutual understanding
- Provide the board with comprehensive, relevant, timely information (clarify what information is needed to inform board's decision making)
- Establish protocol for connecting with internal stakeholders
- Share concerns with the CEO
- No surprises
- Sounding board
- Exhibit mutual respect and support

Communication

Board communicates all requests for information through the CEO

Communication with individual employees/groups must begin with the Board Member indicating that any information shared will be shared with the CEO

The CEO must communicate (and not just good news) to the board

What does it
look like on
the ground?

Clarity, clarity, clarity

A trusting relationship among board members and with the CEO

Vigorous debate...but once vote taken -speak with one voice

Enhanced dialogue, consultation, advice seeking and giving

Trustee Swim Lane

- Board Policy Development
- Policy Driven Governance/Decision making
- Establishing Strategic Direction
- Financial Oversight
- CEO Selection and Evaluation
- Fiduciary responsibility - Care, Loyalty, Obedience, Stewardship
- Responsible to public owners
- Set the tone
- Chair represents Board to public
- Delegates to CEO only
- Never surprise the CEO – heads up on questions
- Strong communication to CEO
- Does not micromanage the CEO
- Performance monitoring of CEO
- Notifies CEO if contacted by employees and/or on campus
- Engages in continual professional development
- Engages in goal-based self evaluation
- Collaborate to set Board goals
- Focus on Board goals

CEO Swim Lane

- Organizational policy development
- Operational decision making
- Establishing and leading the Strategic Plan
- Financial Management to achieve objectives
- Employee selection and evaluation
- Responsible for risk and transparency of work
- Responsible to Board as a body
- Set the tone
- CEO represents college to the public
- Carries out Board directives and related work
- Strong communication to Board- Never surprise the Board
- Never manages upward to Board– advisor, resource
- Evaluated according to policy/desired outcomes/goals
- Establishes robust shared governance/input processes
- Engages in professional learning
- Provides reasonable progress data to Board
- Notifies the Board on urgent matters of impact
- Keeps Board informed of significant or changing issues
- Focuses on college goals in alignment with strategic plan
- Collaborates to create agenda

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

A candidate or accredited institution possesses and demonstrates the following attributes or activities:

1. a clearly articulated and transparent governance structure that outlines roles, responsibilities, and accountability for inclusive decision making by each constituency, including the institution's legally constituted governing body, administration, faculty, staff, and students, as well as any related entities;
2. a legally constituted governing body that:
 - a. serves the public interest, ensures that the institution clearly states and fulfills its mission and goals, has fiduciary responsibility for the institution, and is ultimately accountable for the academic quality, integrity, planning, and fiscal well-being of the institution;
 - b. has sufficient diversity, independence, and expertise to ensure the integrity of the institution. Members must have primary responsibility to the accredited institution, meet regularly, and not allow political, financial, relationship with a related entity, or other undue influences to interfere with their governing responsibilities;
 - c. ensures that neither the governing body nor its individual members interfere in the day-to-day operations of the institution;

- d. oversees at the policy level the quality of teaching and learning, the approval of degree programs and the awarding of degrees, the establishment of personnel policies and procedures, the approval of policies and by-laws, and the assurance of strong fiscal management;
 - e. e. plays a basic policy-making role in financial affairs to ensure integrity and strong financial management. This may include a timely review of audited financial statements and/or other documents related to the fiscal viability of the institution;
 - f. appoints and regularly evaluates the performance of the Chief Executive Officer;
 - g. is informed in all its operations by principles of good practice in board governance;
 - h. is not chaired by an institutional or system representative to avoid conflict of interests;
 - i. establishes and complies with a written conflict of interest policy designed to ensure the impartiality of the governing body by addressing matters such as payment for services, contractual relationships, employment, and family, financial or other interests that could pose or be perceived as conflicts of interest. A majority of members have no employment, family, ownership, or other personal financial interest in the institution;
 - j. supports the Chief Executive Officer in maintaining the autonomy of the institution;
 - k. makes freely available to the Commission accurate, fair, and complete information on all aspects of the institution and its operations and ensures the institution describes itself in comparable and consistent terms to all of its accrediting and regulatory agencies
- warding of degrees, the establishment of personnel policies and procedures, the approval of policies and by-laws, and the assurance of strong fiscal management;

e. plays a basic policy-making role in financial affairs to ensure integrity and strong financial management.

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

3. Chief Executive Officer who:

- a. is appointed by, evaluated by, and reports to the governing body and shall not chair the governing body;
- b. has appropriate credentials and professional experience consistent with the mission of the organization;
- c. has the authority and autonomy required to fulfill the responsibilities of the position, including developing and implementing institutional plans, staffing the organization, identifying and allocating resources, and directing the institution toward attaining the goals and objectives set forth in its mission;
- d. has the assistance of qualified administrators, sufficient in number, to enable the Chief Executive Officer to discharge his/her duties effectively and is responsible for establishing procedures for assessing the organization's efficiency and effectiveness;

Set up for Success

Board and CEO on the same team

- Good Board Governance
- Effective Board/President Relations
- Clear expectations and strategic priorities
- Agreed upon evaluation system
- Communication Protocols
- Identifying what support looks like
- Wellbeing of the President



ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

- Board Retreats at least annually – time for deeper and richer conversations about issues that matter
 - Annual Board Assessment resulting in Board Goals relating to board operations and behavior
 - Agreement on what constitutes a high performing board and a commitment to act in compliance with that agreement
 - Professional Learning for Trustees – local onboarding/orientation, state associations, ACCT
 - Take time to team build and get to know each other
 - Use tools such as agenda development that focuses the board on action
- Study sessions (also called work sessions or conference sessions) where boards take a more in-depth look at issues e.g. student success, equity to provide shared and deeper understanding of the issues and the policy implications
 - Identifying a short set of high-level strategic priorities and expectations annually which constitutes the CEO's work plan and upon which they will be evaluated
 - Development of trusting relationships among board members and with the CEO
 - Candid discussion and agreement on what reciprocal support looks like for individual board members, for president and for the board as a whole

PROTECTING THE WELLBEING OF YOUR CEO

Hiring a president is the most significant investment a board can make for its college. Trustees need to ensure they are supported.

By George R. Boggs, Ph.D., and Maria Sheehan, Ed.D.



Thank you!



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About ACCT

Maggie Owens
Educational Programs and Events Specialist



ABOUT ACCT

The voice of community college leaders

ACCT is a national organization that brings community college leaders together to address real-world challenges and help students succeed through advocacy and education.

ACCT
ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES



Just a little about us.

- We **advocate** on behalf of community colleges.
- We **influence** public policy.
- We **educate** trustees and promote good governance.
- We **facilitate** student success.
- We **place** college presidents and other executives.
- We **conduct** original research.
- (And we do a lot more. **Let's talk.**)



Our members...

- ...are the boards of accredited, nonprofit two-year colleges.
- ...govern most of the nation's approximately 1,100 community colleges.
- ...include approximately 6,200 individuals.
- ...and represent 10.5 million students.

ACCT CONNECT

A virtual learning community to support ACCT members and the institutions they serve

Online Courses

- Governance 101
- Advocacy 101
- Data-informed Governance 101

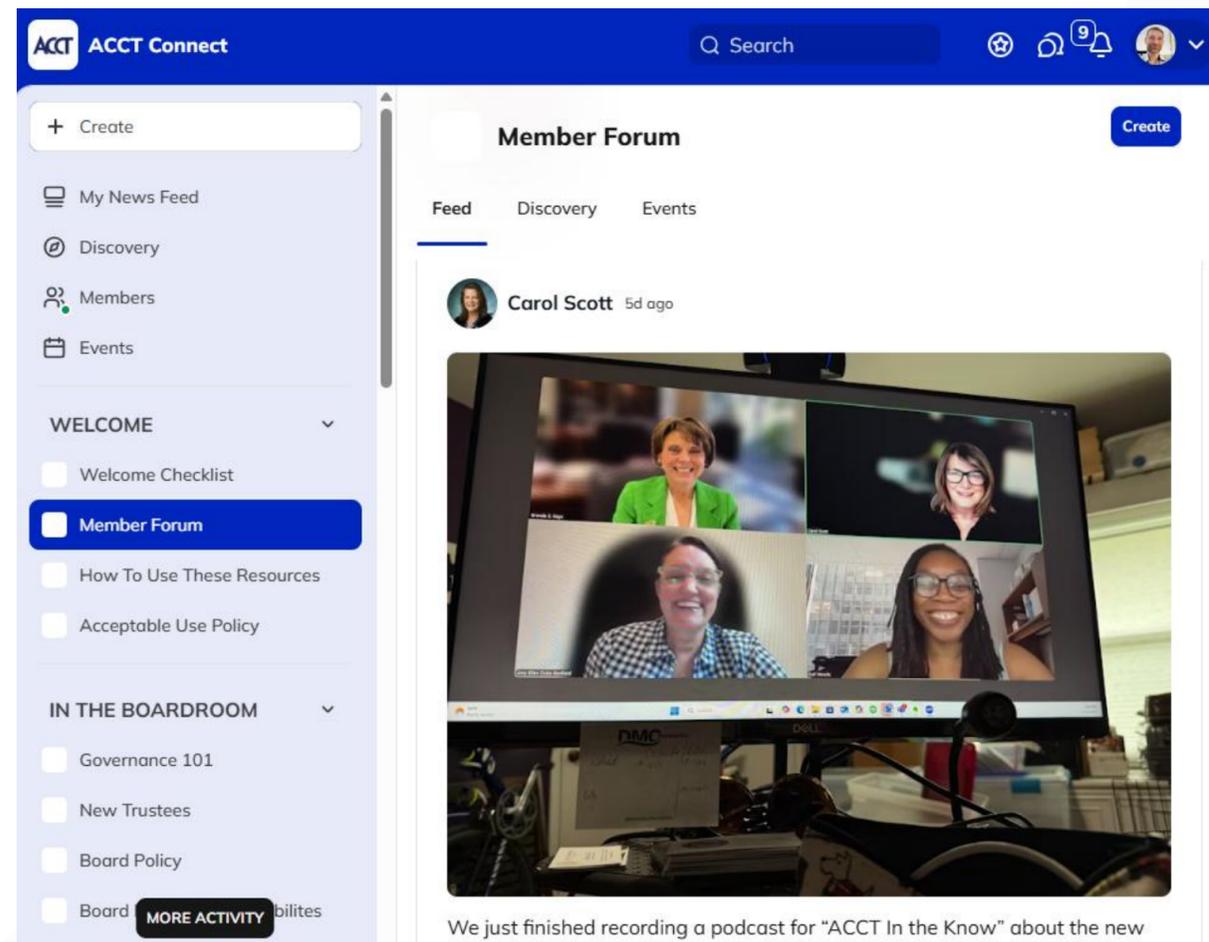
Resource Library

- Policy library

News Feed

Events

Group Spaces



Full access to ACCT Connect is included with ACCT membership.

Strategic Board Services



Reflect, deliberate, thrive with expert guidance.

- Board retreats and workshops
- Board self-assessments
- President/executive evaluations
- Executive searches and transitions
- Policy review
- Succession planning

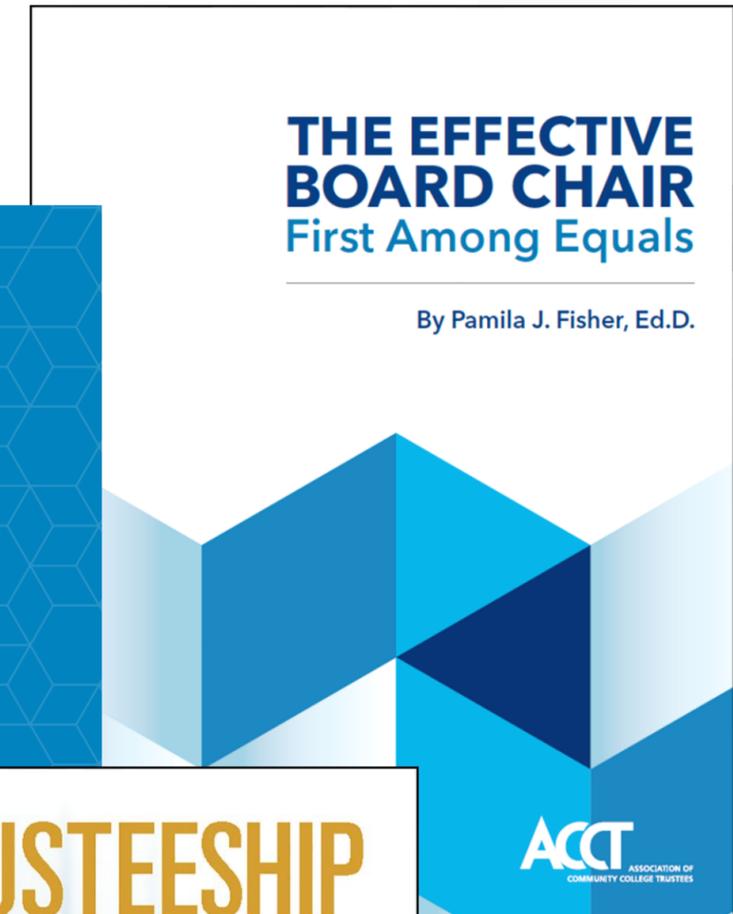
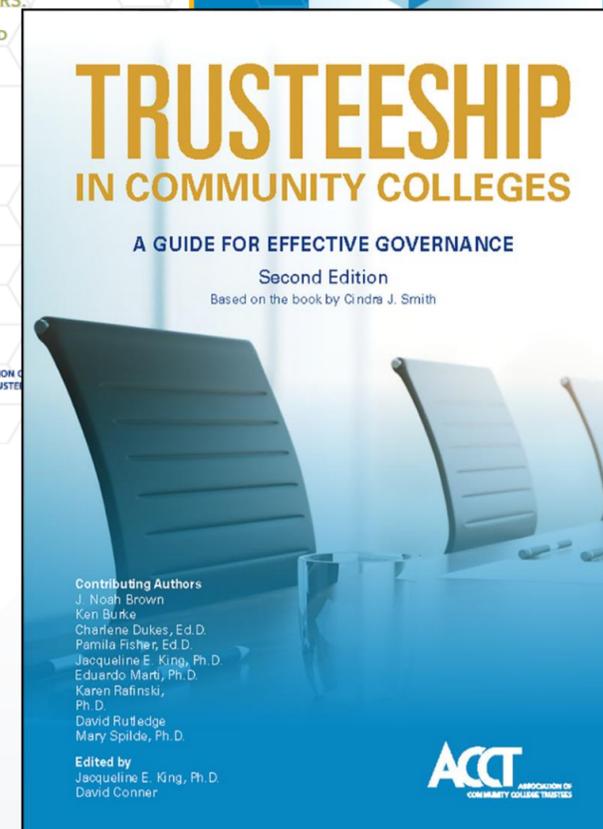
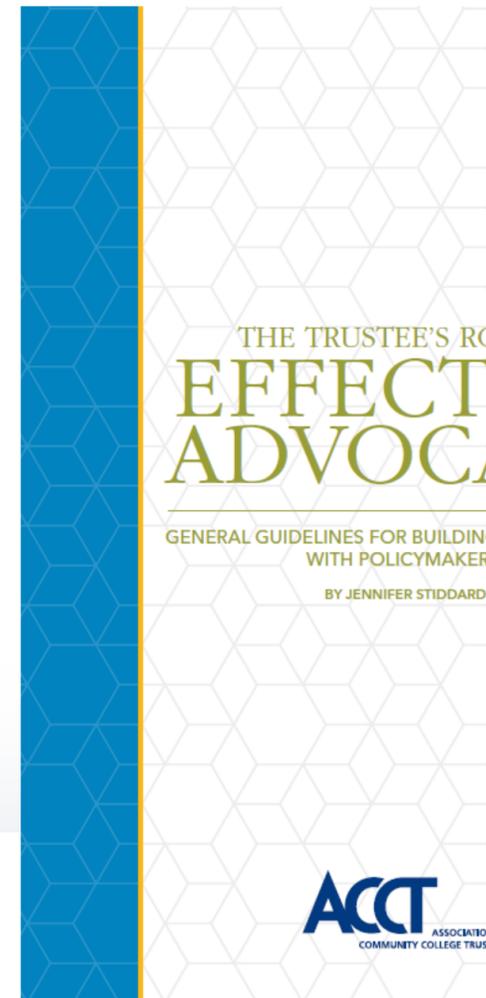
ACCT Searches

- The only national non-profit organization dedicated to providing services exclusively to community colleges with expertise in governance
- Over **500 CEOs** successfully placed
- Uniquely qualified in recruitment of diverse & high-quality candidate pool, working **in partnership** with the community college boards
- Over 30 **search consultants** with specialized expertise



Our Publications & Reports

- *Trustee Quarterly* magazine
- *Advisor* newsletter
- In-depth books, handbooks, research reports & white papers
- Online policy templates, toolkits, research reports & other resources
- Coming soon:
 - *National Survey of Community College Trustees* report
 - *The Student Trustee* handbook
 - *Mapping Community Colleges Around the World* research compendium series



Upcoming ACCT Events

2026 Community College National Legislative Summit

February 8-11, 2026

Washington, D.C.



2026 ACCT Governance Leadership Institute: Strengthening the Leadership Team of the Board

March 18 - 20, 2026

Hosted by
Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus



Ongoing webinars, see our website for more information!