

## **Statement of Commitment and Responsibilities of the Members of the Board of Trustees of Ithaca College**

For more than a century, Ithaca College has benefited from the service, devotion, and contributions of many thousands of its alumni, parents, and friends. From these broad constituencies, a relative handful of individuals have been asked to assume the special responsibility of serving as trustees. The performance of each of those invited to serve is directly related to the institution's continued vitality and strength. Thus, it is essential that individuals invited to serve as trustees understand and actively agree to fulfill the responsibilities of being an Ithaca College trustee.

All individual trustees are expected to have a deep and abiding commitment to the college's values and traditions as articulated in its mission to be the standard of excellence for a residential comprehensive college. In their words and deeds, trustees dedicate themselves to upholding and strengthening the college's tradition of fostering intellect, creativity, and character in an active, student-centered learning community.

Members of the board serve as ultimate fiduciaries in their oversight of institutional affairs in accord with the college's charter, the board's by-laws, and the college's mission and vision. In serving in this critical capacity collectively as a governing board, the trustees hereby embrace what is expected of each individual member.

Among the responsibilities trustees accept is to safeguard and help to grow the college's assets through prudent financial management and personal philanthropy and to serve as leaders of the campus community. Trustees must balance the responsibility of providing for accountability with overarching advocacy for the needs of the current and long-term stability and growth of the college.

This statement of trustee commitment incorporates the trustee responsibilities outlined in the board by-laws as well as the following additional responsibilities:

- Contribute to the board's efforts to sustain and advance the mission, traditions, values, and reputation of Ithaca College as an enterprise devoted to the development of intellect, creativity, and character in our students.
- Conscientiously participate in committee and board meetings by preparing well and participating actively.
- Philanthropic support of the college, which includes earmarking the college as one of the top priorities for a trustee's personal philanthropy according to his or her means. A gift is expected annually.
- Active and conscientious participation in college activities such as Convocation, Commencement, and other events that demonstrate a willingness to become engaged with campus life and culture. If possible, participate in programs sponsored by the Association of Governing Boards.
- Conduct oneself in word and deed from the perspective that we serve, individually and collectively, the college as a whole—not any single part of it, nor any particular internal or external individual or group. We always allow the president and the board chair to speak for the

college or the board.

- Avoid even the appearance of conflicts of interest. When uncertain about a possible conflict, the board chair should be promptly informed so that an appropriate judgment can be made in consultation with others.
- Refrain from asking the president or other executive and academic officers for special favors.
- Help the board set the strategic direction of the college. Contribute to the board's responsibility to distinguish between college management and its governance by monitoring the implementation of college policies without engaging in their administration.
- Actively promote the college to alumni, prospective students, donors, the media, the business community, elected officials, foundations, and the public at large. This advocacy reflects favorably on your commitment to the college and can lead to advancing its reputation and prosperity.
- Strictly maintain the confidentiality of the board's sessions, both during active tenure on the board and following retirement from the board. The college's reputation and safeguarding of individuals' rights to privacy are understood to be of utmost importance.

By my signature below I enthusiastically and without reservation accept this Statement of Commitment and Responsibilities.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Updated: March 2015