

## **Statement of Trustee Responsibilities and Code of Conduct**

We, the members of the Board of Trustees of Ithaca College, recognize the importance of articulating standards in the way we exercise our trusteeship. By adopting this statement, we exercise our trusteeship. By adopting this statement, we acknowledge that trusteeship requires a code of behavior not usually expected of other citizens. By willingly and enthusiastically accepting the privilege of serving the public interest and this College, we also accept the obligations and responsibilities that accompany our trusteeship.

This statement is intended to clarify our individual responsibilities. It shall serve to help individuals being considered for nomination to the Board to decide whether they wish to accept election, to remind new and incumbent members of their obligations, and to encourage periodic review of ourselves and our Board's performance.

Therefore, as trustees of Ithaca College, we each pledge to:

A. Support the College by:

1. participating in the appointment, support, and assessment of the president;
2. counseling the president as appropriate and offering support in his or her relationships with groups or individuals on or off campus;
3. when called upon by the Board, helping interpret and explain to the administration and academic community the needs, interests, and concerns of the community at large in the course of helping to set institutional purposes, priorities, and policies;
4. helping interpret and explain to others how the unique nature of an academic enterprise makes it distinct from other types of corporations, including its essential commitment to academic freedom and its internal system of shared governance. In a similar vein, we pledge to protect the College's integrity and independence from unreasonable outside interference;
5. making Ithaca College a priority in charitable giving, and giving an annual gift according to personal means, mindful of the need to support capital and annual giving programs as appropriate;
6. assisting the Advancement Committee and administration by implementing fund-raising strategies to the best of our ability through personal connections with other corporations, individuals, and foundations;
7. ensuring that our communication with individual students, faculty, staff, or administrators is judicious and appropriate to our roles as trustees.

B. Serve as a Competent Fiduciary by:

1. adhering to all Board bylaws and policies;
2. remaining knowledgeable about the College's mission, purposes, goals, policies, educational offerings, strengths, and needs;
3. remaining knowledgeable about trends in higher education and other institutions in our community, state, and region, as well as nationally and internationally;
4. serving the College as a whole rather than any special interest(s), including assessing clearly and critically any situation that may present a conflict of interest for the Board or the College, and informing the Board of possible conflicts in a timely fashion for disposition by the Board;
5. relying, when appropriate, on experts who serve the Board by evaluating complex matters, while questioning their reports when their advice is inconsistent with expectations;
6. understanding the College's financial statements to help the Board fulfill its fiduciary responsibility.

C. Promote an Effective Board by:

1. preparing for and participating in all official Board meetings and functions, including committee meetings and appropriate campus events;
2. suggesting agenda items periodically for Board and committee meetings to ensure that significant policy-related matters within the purview of the Board or committee are addressed;
3. actively deliberating, discussing, and debating Board matters consistent with one's conscience and convictions, while supporting the majority decision on issues decided by the Board;
4. when differences arise, pursuing resolution through appropriate channels;
5. maintaining confidentiality of the Board's deliberations and speaking on behalf of the Board or College only when authorized to do so by the chair or the chair's designee;
6. serving in leadership positions or undertaking special assignments diligently, competently, and enthusiastically when asked;
7. declining nomination or retiring from Board service if no longer able to satisfy the time, effort, and attendance expectations.
8. suggesting trustee nominees to the Board who are individuals of achievement and

distinction with relevant expertise and who can make significant contributions to the work of the Board and the progress of the College;

9. encouraging periodic review of the Board's performance and supporting peer assessment of the Board's performance as an example to all members of the academic community and to acknowledge that Board and presidential leadership are interdependent.

We, the trustees of Ithaca College, thus commit ourselves individually and collectively to the highest possible standards of conduct. We acknowledge that each of us shares a profound obligation to exercise our best possible judgment as we face the often-perplexing matters affecting the health and vitality of this College we hold in trust for future generations.

We respect the judgments of others concerning our performance, because we recognize the need to see ourselves as others see us. As willing volunteers, we individually pledge to help the Board and Ithaca College be all they are capable of being.

By my signature below I enthusiastically and without reservation accept this Statement of Trustee Responsibilities and Code of Conduct.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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