

INTRODUCTION

Appointed District Board of Trustees (DBOT) members have been responsible for college governance since the late 1960's. This form of local control in the Florida College System (FCS) has built on a strong system of governance for each college. It is the trustees, collectively, who carry the fiduciary and policy responsibility for their respective on behalf of the citizens of Florida and their local communities.

In addition to the extensive training provided regarding college business to its trustees, it is also imperative that trustees are knowledgeable of the mission, structure, and operations of the Florida College System, its partners, and how it fits into Florida's higher education system. Moreover, issues in trusteeship are vital to making informed decisions and using appropriate processes in to implement the policies, programs, and practices at a college.

This manual is intended to provide an overview of the Florida College System, laws governing trustee roles, trustee education, and other matters related to how colleges operate within the higher education structure in Florida.

The Association of Florida Colleges

The Association of Florida Colleges (AFC), established in 1949, is a 501C-6 organization open to all employees of the Florida College System. Currently, all 28 colleges are institutional members of the AFC, in addition to 6,500 plus individual members. The Association is governed by a Board of Directors, is structured into five Regions, 14 commissions, and 28 Chapters addressing the interests of faculty, professional staff, and administrators among all 28 colleges. The AFC mission focuses on advocacy, leadership, professional development and best practice sharing.

The 14 Commissions of the AFC are: Administration; Campus Safety; Career and Professional Employees; Communications and Marketing; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Facilities; Faculty; Healthcare Education; Institutional Effectiveness; Learning Resources; Student Development; Technology; **Trustees**; and Workforce and Adult Education. The AFC Commissions conduct year-round professional development, leadership, and service programs focused on preparing the next generation of college leaders.

The AFC also administers the affairs of the Florida College System Council of Presidents. This includes meeting planning, public records maintenance, project and contract management and communications. More about the Association of Florida Colleges can be found at www.myafchome.org.

The AFC Trustees Commission

The Trustees Commission comprises all currently seated trustees of the Florida College System by virtue of the institutional membership of the college. The Commission is supported by the AFC Chief Executive Officer and governed by an Executive Committee elected annually.

Per the **Trustees Commission Bylaws** the purpose of the commission, "...shall be to promote and enhance the Florida College System of the State of Florida by serving in a liaison capacity with the State Board of Education, by serving as liaison with the general membership of the Association of Florida Colleges (AFC), and by providing trustees within the Florida College System with education opportunities

with regard to their duties and responsibilities, by keeping such trustees informed about matters of concern to all of the community colleges, and by providing a forum for such trustees to discuss the issues common to the Florida College System.”

The Trustee Commission offers an annual **Legislative Conference** in Tallahassee during the yearly Legislative period. This event is usually scheduled just prior or just after the Legislative session begins. It is designed to get as many Trustee “boots on the ground” to help advocate for the annual FCS budget and other vital policy issues impacting the colleges statewide. The program includes updates on the budget and policy issues, as well as guidance using resources provided and the do’s and don’ts of meeting with a legislator.

The Trustees Commission also conducts an annual **Trustee of the Year** awards program in the fall. Trustees nominated by their college are considered for this prestigious recognition. The awards is designed to recognize a current trustee who had a record of exemplary service in the role as a Trustee, and who has significantly contributed in other ways to the college and community. The winner is also submitted to the national Association of Community Colleges Trustees (ACCT) as Florida’s submission for their award.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about the AFC Trustees Commission.