Board of Trustees Professional Development

New Trustee Orientation: New trustees need to become knowledgeable about their policy roles and responsibilities and the history, programs, and culture of the Redwoods Community College District. The Board President and the President/Superintendent play an essential role in welcoming and orienting the new trustee.

The Board President shall:

- Appoint a trustee mentor for each new trustee;
- Request that new trustees complete the on-line ACCJC Accreditation Basics Workshop;
- Provide for new trustees’ review:
  - BP 1200 –District Mission;
  - BP – 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice;
  - AP 2715 – Board Protocols for Effective Trusteeship, and the current Board of Trustees Goals and Objectives;
- Encourage new trustees to attend state and national conferences to learn about their role, especially the CCLC Effective Trusteeship Workshop held annually in Sacramento in late January/early February.

The President/Superintendent is responsible for coordinating a half-day orientation session with new trustees that shall occur prior to the new trustees’ first meeting, which is typically the December meeting. New Trustee Orientation shall include sessions with the President/Superintendent and certain administrators, as well as introductions with faculty, staff and student leaders when possible. Materials provided new trustees will include facts and figures about the District.

The Community College League of California will provide a packet of information to new trustees, including an Effective Trustee Handbook and Fiscal Responsibilities Handbook, to new trustees. New trustees shall also receive a special invitation to the Effective Trusteeship Workshop held annually in late January/early February in Sacramento. All expenses to attend this workshop will be funded by the District.

Continuing Trustees

All trustees are successful when they continually seek information, are open to new ideas, and engage in ongoing education. Trustees will improve their effectiveness with professional development opportunities that address individual needs, wants, and learning styles. The District shall support these efforts with adequate financial support for board professional development and education.
Continuing trustees are encouraged to participate in workshops that provide opportunities for discussion and problem solving and to engage in a variety of education strategies such as reading, web-access, conference attendance, and retreats. Incoming Board Presidents are strongly encouraged to attend the CCLC Board Chair Workshop that is convened in Sacramento and scheduled in late January/early February.

**Student Trustees**

Student trustees require support and assistance from the President/Superintendent, other trustees and college leaders. The Board President and President/Superintendent shall arrange a meeting with the new student trustee which will include a review of materials relevant to effective student trusteeship. The Board President shall assign a mentor from the Board to help the student trustee learn about how the Board works and to review the agenda and related issues. Student trustees are encouraged to attend conferences to learn about their role and to participate in appropriate workshops/retreats. Trustees and President/Superintendent should help student trustees balance their dual roles as students and as trustees by clarifying assumptions about who the student represents. Student trustees provide a student perspective and can contribute a great deal in their role as representative of those who are central to the mission of the College.