

ACCCA STATEMENT OF ETHICS

A Definition of Ethics

Ethical behavior is often defined as "right" or "good" behavior as measured against commonly accepted rules of conduct for a society or for a profession. The ethical person is often described in absolute terms as one who is fair, honest, straightforward, trustworthy, dispassionate and unprejudiced. If, however, one is inconsistently fair or honest, one loses credibility and is perceived to be unethical. The ethical person must be *conspicuously consistent* in the exercise of integrity to sustain the credibility which is an expectation of office.

Importance of Ethics

The credibility of college administrators depends upon whether they are perceived as honest men and women. If integrity contributes to credibility, then ethical behavior is a singular prerequisite to successful management. When the people are convinced that public institutions are administered by honest men and women, equations of credibility and demands for public accountability rarely arise.

Statements of ethical standards do not necessarily ensure ethical behavior. Yet public statements of intent surely create an expectation that public officials will indeed act with integrity in the public interest.

Expectations for Ethical Behavior

Administrators of community colleges shall be committed to the principles of honesty and equity. They shall not seek to abridge for any purpose the freedoms of faculty, staff and students. At the same time, they shall not willingly permit the right and privileges of any members of the college community to override the best interests of the public served by the college.

As appointed administrators of the college community, administrators shall exercise judgments which are dispassionate, fair, consistent and equitable. They shall confront issues and people without prejudice. They shall do everything they can to demonstrate a commitment to excellence in education and without compromise to principles of ethical behavior.

The consistent exercise of integrity is ethical behavior.

Responsibilities of Administrators

Administrators respond to many constituencies: to elected or appointed governing boards; to colleague administrators, faculty and staff; to their professions; and to the students and the community. The following statements of responsibilities are intended as guidelines: