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**Allan Hancock Joint Community College District  
Board Policy  
Chapter 2 – Board of Trustees**

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**BP 2715 CODE OF ETHICS/STANDARDS OF PRACTICE**

The Board of Trustees of the Allan Hancock Joint Community College District (hereafter called the District) derives its authority from the state constitution and acts of the state legislature. It is the goal of the Board to create an atmosphere in which learning can flourish by promoting a healthy working relationship with the Superintendent/ President and the college community through mutual trust and support.

The Board maintains high standards of ethical conduct for its members. Members of the Board are responsible to:

1. Hold the educational welfare of the district's students as his/her primary concern and assure an equal opportunity for the highest quality education possible within the fiscal limitations of the district.
2. Accept the concept that each board member is only one member of the educational team and that the strength and effectiveness of the board is as a board; no member or committee shall act in place of the board.
3. Recognize that the primary responsibility of the board is to represent the entire community and that each member must maintain his/her independent judgment accordingly, refusing to surrender that independent judgment to individuals, special interest or partisan political groups.
4. Make a commitment to the responsibilities one assumes when elected as a trustee including becoming knowledgeable of and supporting the mission and philosophy of the district, becoming informed concerning fiscal and legal responsibilities, and committing time and energy to discharging the duties of being a trustee by supporting the interest of the college internally as well as in the community.
5. Recognize and adhere to the distinction between the board making policy and the administration carrying out policy by delegating authority to the superintendent/president, as the board's executive, while confining board action to policy determination, planning, overall approval and evaluation, and maintenance of the fiscal stability of the district.

6. Comply with the requirements of the Brown Act while maintaining confidentiality of privileged information.
7. Respect the opinions of fellow board members and abide by the principle of majority rule.
8. Ensure an atmosphere in which controversial issues can be presented fairly and in which the dignity of each individual is protected.
9. Recognize that participation of any board member in actions involving possible conflict of interest is precluded.
10. Respect the office and in no way misuse the power inherent in the office.

Charges by any person that a Board member has violated laws and regulations governing Board behavior or the Board's code of ethics shall be directed to the Board President or the Board of Trustees. The Board President shall establish an ad hoc committee to examine the charges and recommend further courses of action to the Board. If the President of the Board is perceived to have violated the code, the Vice President of the Board is authorized to pursue resolution.

**Reference:** WASC/ACCJC Accreditation Standard IV.C.11

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