

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OHIO
TRUSTEES CONFERENCE

November 17 & 18, 2014
Columbus State Community College
Columbus, OH

The 2014 conference was conducted by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, Washington, DC, the Inter-University Council of Ohio, and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

The November 17 conference started with a Fiduciary Responsibilities Panel. David Yost, Auditor of the State of Ohio stressed the role of the board in preventing abuse of power by those in charge of the institution, the need for trustees to maintain a professional only relationship with the institution and the use of open records law to promote open and accountable governance.

The second session, "What I Wish I Had Known as a New Board Member" encouraged trustees to engage with students and faculty. The need to establish institutional priorities for planning was emphasized. A discussion on institutional costs, the need for student incentives to achieve, and how to provide more access to courses and programs were discussed. Two questions were asked for the audience to consider: Is the current higher education business model broken? Should marginal enrollment programs be discontinued? The session concluded noting access to university and state council by board members, email subject to a public records request and the need to grow the institutional endowment.

The November 18 session started with a keynote speech by Richard Legon, President of AGB and Trustee, Spelman College. He commented on how boards must be prepared for the challenges and changes now occurring in higher education. He discussed the fiduciary duty of a board and the need for board independence. Mr. Legon noted the need for a board to be engaged but not become a micromanager. He also noted the president should not police the board.

A Quality and Value Review panel discussion session followed. The moderator was Jack Hershey, President and CEO Ohio Association of Community Colleges. The panel was Steve Johnson, President, Sinclair Community College, Laura Meeks, Eastern Gateway Community College and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Akron. The discussion covered the need for degree completion, three year degree programs, more summer offerings, and the need for institutions to be entrepreneurial. The growing evidence of the failure of remedial programs was also noted.

A Plenary Presentation: Habits of Effective and High Performance Boards was conducted by Dr. Carol Cartwright, AGB and past president of Bowling Green and Kent State Universities. The presentation was based on an article [The Ten Habits of Highly Effective Boards](#), Richard Legon, March/April 2014 Trustees Magazine.

After lunch a Board of Regents Staff Presentation and a Q&A session with Chancellor Carey was conducted. Comments on the need for higher graduation rates were made. A focus on low/middle income and minority populations was noted as an imperative. Comments on campus safety and the Cleary Act were made. A program to present career choices during seventh grade is under review by the Ohio Department of Education. Mandatory use of Career Services by students was suggested. The use of faculty and alumni, community partnering, required career exploration and tying courses to careers were suggested. Current career services are poor resulting in increases in student debt and poor graduation rates. Poor support by colleges and universities was given as one of many causes. OBR will soon sponsor a program "Ohio Career Conversations". OBR representatives will make campus visits if requested to address the problem.

Repeating concurrent sessions: "Overview of State Performance Funding Formula", " Financing Institutional Debt: Issues and Consideration", "Ohio Ethics and Conflict of Interest Laws" and "Open Question and Answer Session with AGB" were held.

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