

WESTERN NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Western Community College Area Board of Governors' Policy

TITLE:	External Relationships of the Board and College
DIVISION:	Board of Governors
CATEGORY:	College Operations
REFERENCE:	
NUMBER:	BP-102
APPROVAL/DATE:	F. Lynne Klemke, President, WCCA Board of Governors December 16, 2020

Purpose

To establish the expectation for working relationships between the College, the Board of Governors, and governmental agencies.

Scope

This policy applies to the WNCC Board of Governors and the College community in general.

Policy

The College is a public, tax-supported entity, and recognizes that the very nature of its mission is to meet the educational, work force, and cultural needs of the community it serves.

In support of its mission of public service, the Board views the relationship between the College and other governmental agencies in the spirit that all public entities belong to the people.

However, in so doing, the rights of the College, the home, governmental authorities, and of the individual should be clearly understood and protected.

Because the College belongs to the people, and because it is the belief of the Board that the people in the College service area may most effectively be served by a locally elected Board immediately responsive to the needs of its electorate, the Board supports the concept of local control of the College and a mill levy gathered at the local level to enable the College to best serve its community.

All relationships between the College and other governmental agencies, at the local, regional, state, and national levels, will clarify and preserve the College's commitment to a locally governed community college, readily responsive to the community and its needs.

Federal Governmental Agencies

The Board recognizes the need for sound and effective communications between the College and the state/federal governmental agencies. The Board understands its mission to be one of ensuring that the educational services are guaranteed to the people of the College service area and are enhanced by these relationships.

The Board understands that a clear, open dialogue between the College and the state/federal governmental agencies is one of the best means of ensuring that the College most effectively serves its public.

Nebraska Legislature

The Board recognizes the need for sound and effective communications between the College and the Nebraska Legislature. The Board understands its mission to be one of ensuring that the educational services guaranteed to the people of the College service area through community college legislation are realized.

The Board understands that a clear, open dialogue between the College and the Nebraska Legislature is one of the best means of ensuring that the College most effectively serves its public.

Coordinating Commission

The Board welcomes a spirit of cooperation between the College and the state educational coordinating agencies, recognizing the value of shared ideas and the mutual respect necessary among institutions so that they may carry out their individual missions.

Nebraska Community College Association

The Board is fully in support of the aims and philosophies of the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) and will carry forth its support through membership and participation.

Nebraska Colleges and Universities

The Board realizes there is a need for effective communication between the College and other institutions of higher education throughout the State of Nebraska. This clear and open dialogue between the College and other colleges and universities is one of the best means of ensuring that the College most effectively serves its public.

Employment Services

The College will maintain ongoing and open communications with employment services and governmental agencies to keep abreast of work force needs and career opportunities available to students and graduates.

Law Enforcement Agencies

The College and its representatives shall cooperate with any duly processed lawful exercise of authority or any law enforcement agency or court.

Information Requests

The College, as a responsible member of NCCA and as a responsive public agency, will provide information upon request utilizing the following criteria:

- 1) The NCCA recognizes that Nebraska community colleges are public bodies and as such owe a duty to the public to make available as much information and data concerning their operation as possible. On the other hand, the respective colleges should not spend public funds to create, compile, assemble, and/or duplicate information and data, which is of little or no value to the governing boards in carrying out the statutory responsibilities to govern their respective institutions.

- 2) The Nebraska community college system will make every effort to comply with the public records law and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations requiring the compilation and dissemination of information and data. In addition, the system will cooperate in every way reasonably possible to make information available to those persons and entities requesting the same.
- 3) Requests for information and data from state governmental entities or persons connected with the state governmental process shall be brought to the attention of the NCCA Executive Director which:
 - a) Request information applicable to all community colleges;
 - b) Request information that may affect one or all of the community colleges;
 - c) Request further information not required as part of the standard format of submission forms; or
 - d) Request information involving estimates, projections, opinions, policies, or other speculative information not approved by the President or the Board.
- 4) The NCCA Executive Director, after consultation with the President or their designee, the President of NCCA, and the Chairperson of the NCCA Legislative Issues Team, will respond to the request for information as follows:
 - a) Provide the information if the same is available or can be obtained with minimal effort and cost;
 - b) Refer the person or entity making the request to information and data which has been filed with the state governmental entities such as the Nebraska State Auditor, the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, the Nebraska Legislative Fiscal Analysts Office, and the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary, as well as publications generally prepared and distributed by the colleges;
 - c) Refer the person or entity making the request to the laws governing public records and the location of the records involved in the request (which in most cases should be the President's Office) and the name of the person to contact at such location to arrange for an inspection of public records; or
 - d) Encourage each college to establish a policy regarding the compilation, duplication, and distribution of information and data including the costs charged for the same and forward such policy to the NCCA Executive Director so that proper referral may be made of informational requests. Each college is also encouraged to designate one administrator with whom the Executive Director may confer on informational requests affecting the college or college system.

Rationale

The Board recognizes that the College exists as an integral part of the community and cannot be separated from it. Further, the Board believes that the success of the College will depend upon the effectiveness of community, students, and staff working towards common goals. A continuous program of two-way communication between the College and the community is essential.

Revising this Policy

This Board Policy supersedes any prior WNCC policy, procedure, guideline, or handbook on this subject matter.

If statutory provisions, regulatory guidance, or court interpretations change or conflict with this Board Policy, the Board retains the right to revise accordingly and for the changes to take effect immediately.

Original Adoption Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number: 1979 and 1983

Revision Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number: December 16, 2020 Item K(3)

Prior Policy Number:

- 105.0100.79 General Statement of Relationship
- 105.0200.79 State Federal Governmental Agencies – College Relations
- 105.0300.79 State Legislature College Relations
- 105.0400.79 Coordinating Commissions College Relations
- 105.0500.79 Nebraska Community College Association
- 105.0600.79 Nebraska Colleges and Universities
- 105.0700.79 Employment Services College Relations
- 105.0800.79 Law Enforcement Agencies and Courts
- 105.0900.83 Information Requests
- 115.0100.79 Rationale

Divisions/Department Responsible for Review and Update: President's Office

Sponsoring Division/Department: Board of Governors

Repeal Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number:

Cross Reference:

Procedure(s) for Policy: n/a

Related Policies/References: