

**TRUSTEE ESSENTIALS:  
SEMINARS FOR NJ COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES**

**THE ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE – April 18, 2005**

**Eight Key Principles for Community College Trustees**

1. The most important job of the community college trustee is the selection and support of the college president.
2. It is essential that community college trustees advocate for the college and its budget.
3. Community college boards of trustees must manage themselves and ensure that members are fulfilling their roles and participating in an appropriate manner.
4. The community college board of trustees governs the college through broad policies, while the president and his/her staff are responsible for operations.
5. Community college trustees should consult the Middle States Commission on Higher Education ([www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)) accrediting standards on the importance of good trusteeship.
6. The community college board of trustees is an independent body governing the community college and, by law, the trustees' responsibility is to protect the best interests of the college.
7. Key community college trustee responsibilities, by law, include defining the mission of the college, hiring the president, setting tuition, and approving budgets, new programs, and facilities plans.
8. Community college trustees should abide by the "Institutional Code of Ethics" approved by the NJ Commission on Higher Education ([www.state.nj.us/highereducation](http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation)) as well as their own institution's code of ethics.