

# EXCELLENCE IN BOARD GOVERNANCE TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Participants** — The Board Leadership Team from each institution includes the board chair, president and three other leaders from the board; all engaged in 3-5 days of training.

**Hybrid Engagement** — Thanks to zoom technology, board leadership teams may engage in the training program either face-to-face, on site in Orlando, or virtually for both the Fall conference and the Wednesday day of training held concurrently with the Annual Meeting in February. On-site engagement will include Thursday & Friday of the Annual Meeting as well.

**Schedule** — Includes up to five days of training; two in the Fall & 1-3 days in the Spring. The first 2-day training event is offered on Wednesday-Thursday, September 22-23, either virtually or at the Weber Center for Leadership Development, 5850 TG Lee Blvd, Ste 130, Orlando, Florida 32822. The second training event is offered on Wednesday – Friday as part of the ABHE’s 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting, held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando including the Friday night concert by Steven Curtis Chapman. The Wednesday training is offered both for on-site engagement or virtually and plenary sessions of the Annual Meeting will be live streamed.

**Financial Responsibility** — Thanks to the generous support of the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust (MCT) and ABHE, each participating institution will only be responsible for their participants’ travel expenses for the Fall & Spring training event and the on-site expenses for the coach’s follow up meeting with their full board. All on-site expenses for the Fall and Spring training events will be provided by MCT and ABHE including lodging, meals, Annual Meeting registration, resources, and coaching; an investment of up to \$10,000 per institution.

**Training** — Sessions will include 1-hour PowerPoint presentations on issues relevant to effective board governance with ample opportunity for Q & A. These will be followed by both individual and team assessments regarding areas of board strength and weakness.

**Results** — By the conclusion of the training, each Board Leadership Team will have crafted its own **5 Strategic Action Steps** — its best assessment of the most significant and urgent areas for board development.

**Full Board Meeting/Retreat** — Following the final training evening in the Spring, each participating institution will host their coach for a full board meeting or retreat. This is to provide the full board with an overview of the entire training curriculum and to specifically assist with follow up on the board’s **5 Strategic Action Steps**, prompting actions for board development.

**Excellence in Board Governance Certification** — Official recognition based on the following:

- ▶ Successful engagement by the Board Leadership Team in the 3-5 days of training
- ▶ Full board adoption of the **5 Strategic Action Steps**
- ▶ Appropriate steps being taken to accomplish these board development goals
- ▶ Official recognition takes place at the subsequent ABHE Annual Meeting

### AN EXCELLENT BOARD . . .

#### 1. Grasps the value proposition of the institution; its promise and how well it's delivered

- ▶ The promise the institution makes to its constituency
- ▶ The institution's distinctives and brand in the marketplace
- ▶ What students, alumni and stakeholders consider of greatest value
- ▶ The value board members bring to the institution

#### 2. Embraces its calling to steward the mission, culture and spiritual ethos of an institution

- ▶ The mission that expresses the reason for the institution's existence
- ▶ The story of the institution — its history, traditions, and culture
- ▶ Values & cultivates the spiritual vitality of the institution
- ▶ God's vision for the future of the institution — a mission/vision driven institution

#### 3. Exercises its stewardship role & responsibilities

- ▶ The board's role in stewarding the institution as a spiritual enterprise
- ▶ Understanding and carrying out its role of stewarding institutional resources and fiduciary responsibilities
- ▶ Board authority expressed in policy as one voice vs individual voice
- ▶ Policies set forth in Board Policy Manual defining administrative authority, responsibilities, and goals

#### 4. Ensures the sustainability of the institution via strategic intelligence

- ▶ Understanding your institution's business model
- ▶ Key student data — admissions, discount rate, retention, graduation rates, outcomes & placement
- ▶ Timely financial reports & information
- ▶ Effective data dashboard — Key Performance Indicators

#### 5. Engages in strategic thinking/planning and risk assessment/mitigation

- ▶ Accurate assessment of institutional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
- ▶ Collaborative pursuit of institutional future through strategic thinking & planning
- ▶ Stays abreast of environmental, cultural, legal, financial and government compliance risks
- ▶ Creative consideration of innovation for growth and mission achievement

#### 6. Secures and sustains effective presidential leadership

- ▶ Prudent plans for presidential selection, development, and evaluation
- ▶ Carefully crafted plan for presidential succession & transition planning
- ▶ Effective path for board chair & presidential partnership
- ▶ Clear understanding of board chair and presidential authority

#### 7. Creates a culture of strategic board development

- ▶ Strategic board member recruitment, selection, and orientation
- ▶ Selection of an effective board chair
- ▶ Board member self-assessment and meeting evaluation
- ▶ Cultivation of board spiritual vitality

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## PROGRAM PROMISE — 7 ESSENTIALS

Participating board leadership teams will learn essential principles and implement effective practices for excellence in board governance — how the board individually and collectively . . .

- ▶ Grasps the value proposition of the institution; its promise and how well it's delivered
- ▶ Embraces its calling to steward the mission, culture and spiritual ethos of an institution
- ▶ Exercises its stewardship role & responsibilities
- ▶ Ensures the sustainability of the institution via strategic intelligence
- ▶ Engages in strategic thinking/planning and risk assessment/mitigation
- ▶ Secures and sustains effective presidential leadership
- ▶ Creates a culture of strategic board development

## OUTCOMES

- ▶ Clear articulation of institutional mission, promise and value proposition
- ▶ Mechanisms to monitor organizational climate, spiritual vitality and stakeholder satisfaction
- ▶ Current, comprehensive and functioning board policies handbook
- ▶ Strategic board recruitment, spiritual and professional development, and assessment plan
- ▶ Relevant strategic plan that includes risk assessment and drives institutional decision making
- ▶ Comprehensive presidential selection, development, nurture and evaluation plan
- ▶ Dashboard of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) with three years of historical data informing board policy