



**BOARD  
GOVERNANCE**

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# EXCELLENCE IN BOARD GOVERNANCE

## An ABHE initiative for Board Training and Certification

### PURPOSE

To advance the sustainability and missional success of biblical higher educational institutions by instructing and mentoring board leaders regarding essential principles and practices for effective board governance. Participants will grow in their understanding and experience of . . .

- ◆ Appropriate board roles and fiduciary responsibilities
- ◆ Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for effective institutional oversight
- ◆ Prudent board engagement in strategic thinking and planning
- ◆ The vital partnership with the board and president
- ◆ Purposes and essential elements of a sound Board Policy Manual

### OUTCOME

All participating institutions will collaborate with their Board Governance Coach to create a strategic institutional board development plan that facilitates ongoing board development toward sustained excellence beyond the completion of this training journey.

### CERTIFICATION

Based on successful engagement by the entire 5-member board leadership team in the four days of training and subsequent meeting of the coach with the full board, confirming that appropriate steps are being taken to accomplish the Five Key Strategic Actions, each board will be recognized at the following ABHE Annual Meeting with the ABHE Excellence in Board Governance certificate.



### PROGRAM

The program includes **4 days of training** provided during two events.

- ◆ The **1st two-day training event** will be the Board Governance Conferences offered Fall, 2019. Institutions may choose either Monday & Tuesday, September 30-October 1 or Thursday & Friday, October 3-4.
- ◆ The **2nd two-day training event** will be held at the beginning of the 2020 Annual Meeting, on Wednesday & Thursday, February 12-13.
- ◆ **Training sessions** will include presentations (including handouts and worksheets) on issues vital to effective board governance along with structured and facilitated discussions by the respective board leadership teams assessing their own areas of needed board development.
- ◆ **Results:** By the conclusion of the four days of training, each board leadership team will have crafted their own plan of **Five Key Strategic Actions** based on insights gained during the training.

### PARTICIPATION

- ◆ **Personal:** For each institution — engagement must include the president, board chair, and three other leaders from the board; a total of five from each institution participating in all four days of training as outlined above along with the follow up meeting of the coach with the full board.
- ◆ **Financial:** Each participating institution will be responsible for their participants' travel expenses to the two respective 2-day training events, the onsite expenses for their coach's meeting with the full board along with a modest \$250 non-refundable registration fee. All other expenses are covered by the program partners — ABHE and the Murdock Charitable Trust, a total investment of over \$10,000. If travel expenses will present a significant financial hardship, limited scholarship assistance is available.

### BOARD RETREAT / MEETING

Within six months of the final 2-day training event in February, each participating institution will host their coach for a full board meeting — to provide an overview of the entire training curriculum and specifically assist with follow up on the board's Five Key Strategic Actions developed during the four days of training. Institutions will only be responsible for the onsite expenses of their coach for this event.

### THREE-YEAR PROGRAM

Thanks to the sustaining commitment of the Murdock Charitable Trust and ABHE, this **Excellence in Board Governance** training program will be offered for three years — allowing for sixteen institutions to engage each year for a total of 48 institutions being trained over the coming three years.

### COACHES

Each institution will be assigned a coach with extensive experience in higher educational governance effectiveness. The coach will work with the board leadership team (BLT) and will be available for consultation throughout the entire training process — resulting in the crafting of a Five Key Strategic Actions plan. Institutions may request a preferred coach from the following list of coaches who have helped design this program.

- ◆ James Barnes — former president of Indiana Wesleyan University, ABHE Senior Fellow
- ◆ John Derry — retiring president of Hope International University
- ◆ Ralph Enlow — ABHE president
- ◆ David Gyertson — former president of Asbury, Regent and Taylor universities
- ◆ Scott Rodin — former president of Eastern Seminary, ABHE Senior Fellow
- ◆ Peter Teague — President of Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary & Grad School