

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community College Presidents
State University Presidents
Martin Meehan, President, University of Massachusetts System

FROM: Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner

DATE: August 9, 2019

SUBJECT: SAVE THE DATES:

- Thursday, October 31: **DHE Statewide Trustee Convening**
- Friday, September 27: **New Trustee Orientation and Training**

I am pleased to announce two important fall events for public higher education trustees:

DHE Statewide Trustee Convening

Thursday, October 31, 2019 - 9:30 am

Doubletree Hotel, Westborough, MA

For the past two years, DHE has held its annual trustee conference in the spring. After consultations with campus leadership, including trustees and other stakeholders, we have decided to move back to gathering trustees in the Fall instead. This will allow us the opportunity to share system objectives earlier in the academic year to help inform annual and comprehensive presidential evaluations, as well as institutional strategic planning.

However, in lieu of a full-day conference with varied afternoon breakout sessions, during this transition year we intend to do something a little different. This year's convening will exclusively focus on how we collectively advance the system's Equity Agenda. In addition to providing you with updates on our work in this area, we look forward sharing best practices and hearing from each of you how on this important work is taking place on individual campuses.

DHE's New Trustee Orientation and Training

Friday, September 27, 2019 - 10am-2pm

Middlesex Community College, Bedford campus.

Additionally, and separate from the October convening, I am pleased to announce that the DHE will offer its trustee orientation training module at least twice during the 2019-2020 academic year- in the Fall (September 27th) and in the Spring (TBD).

This orientation module was developed by the DHE in partnership with staff from the State Ethics Commission, the Attorney General's office, and the Office of the Inspector General. The agenda (<https://tinyurl.com/DHENewTrusteesSept2019>) is designed to give new trustees of the public higher education system foundational information on trustee fiduciary and statutory roles

and responsibilities, and through Q and A to allow for a safe space to ask questions from the state officials who are subject matter experts in their respective fields.

Trustees who have been appointed in 2019, who have not previously attended this orientation module, or who would like a refresher course are strongly encouraged to attend. Student trustees are also welcome.

More details about both events and registration information will come from Matt Noyes, DHE's Director of Trustee and Governmental Relations, in September. Meanwhile, please share this "save the date" information with the members of your boards and please encourage attendance. If you or members of your boards have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Matt directly at 617-994-6934 or mnoyes@dhe.mass.edu.