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Practical Leadership in Community Colleges: Navigating TodayÂs Challenges

George R. Boggs, Christine J. McPhail

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Anticipate, manage, and overcome the complex issues facing community colleges

Practical Leadership in Community Colleges offers a path forward through the challenges community colleges face every day. Through field observations, reports, news coverage, and interviews with leaders and policy makers, this book digs deep into the issues confronting college leaders and provides clear direction for managing through the storm. With close examination of both emerging trends and perennial problems, the discussion delves into issues brought about by changing demographics, federal and state mandates, public demand, economic cycles, student unrest, employee groups, trustees, college supporters, and more to provide practical guidance toward optimal outcomes for all stakeholders. Written by former presidents, including a past president of the American Association of Community Colleges, this book provides expert guidance on anticipating and managing the critical issues that affect the entire institution. Both authors serve as consultants, executive coaches, and advisors to top leaders, higher education institutions, and leadership development programs throughout the United States.

Community colleges are facing increasingly complex issues from both without and within. Some can be avoided, others only mitigated—but all must be managed, and college leaders must be fully prepared or risk failing the students and the community. This book provides real-world guidance for current and emerging leaders and trustees seeking more effective management methods, with practical insight and expert perspective.

- Tackle the college completion challenge and performance-based funding initiatives
- Manage through economic cycles, declining support, and calls for accountability
- Delve into the issues of privatization and employee unionization
- Execute strategies to align institutional goals and mission
- Manage organizational change and new ways of thinking that are essential in today's competitive environment
- Manage issues involving diversity, inclusiveness, and equity
- Prepare adequately for campus emergencies

Community colleges are the heartbeat of the nation's higher education system, and bear the tremendous responsibility of serving the needs of a vast and varied student body. Every day may bring new issues, but effective management allows institutions to rise to the challenge rather than falter under pressure. *Practical Leadership in Community Colleges* goes beyond theory to provide the practical guidance leadership needs to more effectively lead institutions to achieve results and serve the students and the community.

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