

University Network for Collaborative Governance

PRINCIPLES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND ETHICAL PRACTICE

Preamble

The University Network for Collaborative Governance is made up of college and university centers, institutes and programs that engage in service and scholarship to build the capacity for collaborative governance in their communities and states. Members of UNCG are dedicated to fostering the highest standards of performance in their roles as neutral forums and resource and service centers that aid in the practice of collaborative governance. These centers are committed to the support of learning and advancing shared knowledge of collaborative governance practices.

To that end, UNCG has developed a common set of principles that its members agree to adhere to in their organizational operations, functions, and practices. The principles reflect a commitment to maintaining the integrity and excellence of the programs and practices of these centers.

Each center has or will have an organizational charter or set of policies that articulates the following principles as well as appropriate policies and standards to guide their practices.

UNCG PRINCIPLES

Transparency/Openness

Openly communicate the center's mission, programs, activities, and funding to the public and seek their input and feedback. When conducting collaborative governance activities, ensure that participants are clear about the purpose and process, the authority of the group and how decisions will be made, and that the interested public is given the appropriate information about the process.

Impartiality/Neutrality

Strive to remain unbiased and objective in all dealings by divulging information about relationships and any real or perceived conflicts of interest. Ensure that collaborative processes are conducted in a fair and impartial manner.

Equity/Inclusiveness

Incorporate principles of diversity, inclusion and equity in all organizational policies and practices and act to ensure that fair opportunity to participate is present in collaborative processes.

Respect for Private Communications

Hold communications and records in confidence to the extent permitted and do not disclose confidential communications unless given permission to do so.

Develop confidentiality policies to guide the management of all communications, consistent with statutes governing openness and transparency, university rules, and other legal obligations. Ensure that participants in collaborative governance processes are clear about expectations for confidentiality.

Standards of Practice

Establish or adopt established practice standards to guide the conduct of collaborative governance processes.