



## **Before You Say Yes ... To Serving on the FICP Board of Directors...**

An invitation to serve on the FICP Board of Directors is an honor, privilege and opportunity that may be hard to pass up. Before you accept the responsibilities, please think about the following:

- Do you have the time?** The FICP board is a working board. Are you willing and able to commit additional time to participate in four board meetings per year, attend the Annual Conference, engage in conference calls and participate on association committees?
- Will accepting this offer bring hardship to your business?** In other words, do you have the support of your company?
- Are there any conflicts of interest (real or perceived) that might arise with this position?** Are there issues within FICP in which you have a vested interest? If so, are you able to accommodate those conflicts in a way that is appropriate? Are you willing to look at the well-being of the industry and the association over the immediate benefits of your personal or company interests? Will you support the policies of the association even though the results may not bring direct benefits to you or your business?
- Do you understand the fiduciary obligations?** Do you recognize the need to act within the best interests of the association at all times? Do you appreciate the need for loyalty to the decisions the board makes, even if you disagree? Are you willing to operate within the constraints of the association's bylaws and articles of incorporation?
- Are you willing to actively contribute to the improvement of the organization's ability to develop and sustain exceptional governance?** Will you take the time to understand the organization's mission, culture, products and services?
- Are you willing to work in partnership with the Executive Director, recognizing his or her responsibilities and authorities?** Will you engage honestly and openly in that person's annual performance evaluation?
- Are you willing to help the board operate at a strategic level, always looking at the big picture (outcomes vs. process)?** Will you recognize the responsibilities of the board to shape the policy for the organization while staying out of the day-to-day administrative activities? Will you respect the authority of the Executive Director to manage the staff?
- Will you recognize your responsibility to help ensure the long-term fiscal strength of the association?**
- Will you encourage the board to be a "learning" board, devoting part of each meeting to some type of board improvement?** This includes participating in self-appraisal with the objective of continuous governance improvement.
- Will you assist in the continuous succession planning effort?** Are you willing to be a champion of new ideas, welcoming diverse, and sometimes counterintuitive, viewpoints that will ultimately lead to innovation? Will you commit yourself to continually searching for new director candidates? And most important, will you know when it is time to let go, move on and let someone else lead?

Should you say yes? If you answered yes to these questions, and you're passionately committed to FICP, then we encourage your nomination as a candidate to serve on the FICP Board of Directors!