Statement of Shared Ethical Principles

The Student Services Team of Middlesex Community College has adopted the CAS (Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education) Statement of Shared Ethical Principles developed in 2006. This statement was also adopted by NASPA, the country’s leading association for the student affairs profession. The Student Services Team at Middlesex Community College believes this statement accurately reflects its beliefs and goals and it is our desire and obligation to uphold these principles.

**Principle I - Autonomy**

We take responsibility for our actions and both support and empower an individual's and group’s freedom of choice.

•We strive for quality and excellence in the work that we do

•We respect one’s freedom of choice

•We believe that individuals, ourselves and others, are responsible for their own behavior and learning

•We promote positive change in individuals and in society through education

•We foster an environment where people feel empowered to make decisions

•We hold ourselves and others accountable

•We study, discuss, investigate,teach, conduct research, and publish freely within the academic community

•We engage in continuing education and professional development

**Principle II – Non-Malfeasance**

We pledge to do no harm.

•We collaborate with others for the good of those whom we serve

•We interact in ways that promote positive outcomes

•We create environments that are educational and supportive of the growth and development of the whole person

•We exercise role responsibilities in a manner that respects the rights and property of others without exploiting or abusing power

**Principle III - Beneficence**

We engage in altruistic attitudes and actions that promote goodness and contribute to the health and welfare of others.

•We treat others courteously

•We consider the thoughts and feelings of others

•We work toward positive and beneficial outcomes

**Principle IV - Justice**

We actively promote human dignity and endorse equality and fairness for everyone.

•We treat others with respect and fairness, preserving their dignity, honoring their differences, promoting their welfare

•We recognize diversity and embrace a cross-cultural approach in support of the worth, dignity, potential, and uniqueness of people within their social and cultural contexts

•We eliminate barriers that impede student learning and development or discriminate against full participation by all students

•We extend fundamental fairness to all persons

•We operate within the framework of laws and policies

•We respect the rights of individuals and groups to express their opinions

•We assess students in a valid, open, and fair manner and one consistent with learning objectives

•We examine the influence of power on the experience of diversity to reduce marginalization and foster community

**Principle V - Fidelity**

We are faithful to an obligation, trust, or duty.

•We maintain confidentiality of interactions, student records, and information related to legal and private matters

•We avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof

•We honor commitments made within the guidelines of established policies and procedures

•We demonstrate loyalty and commitment to institutions that employ us

•We exercise good stewardship of resources

**Principle VI - Veracity**

We seek and convey the truth in our words and actions.

•We act with integrity and honesty in all endeavors and interactions

•We relay information accurately

•We communicate all relevant facts and information while respecting privacy and confidentiality

**Principle VII – Affiliation**

We actively promote connected relationships among all people and foster community.

•We create environments that promote connectivity

•We promote authenticity, mutual empathy, and engagement within human interactions

When professionals act in accordance with ethical principles, program quality and excellence are enhanced and ultimately students are better served. As professionals providing services in higher education, we are committed to upholding these shared ethical principles, for the benefit of our students, our professions, and higher education.

Some concepts for this code were taken from:

Kitchner, K. 1985). Ethical principles and ethical decisions in student affairs. In H. Canon & R. Brown (Eds.), Applied ethics in student services (New Directions in Student Services, No. 30,pp. 17-30). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Council for the Advancement of Standards. (2006). CAS professional standards for higher education

(6th Ed.). Washington, DC: Author.