



JOHN C. FOSTER '77, '83g, '97g

Biographical Sketch

Dr. John Foster, a native Pennsylvanian, received his bachelors, masters and doctorate from Penn State. His association with the University greatly influenced his varied career. John currently is CEO of NOCTI, formerly the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute, which performs assessment, licensing, and credentialing for over 100 technical occupations. His experiences have been associated with improving others' lives through education and the self confidence that follows. He was a public school teacher, administrator and teacher educator. He served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under Governors Ridge and Rendell as State Director of Career and Technical Education.

Dr. Foster has presented nationally and internationally on technical workforce training. He helped found USATVET, an organization exporting the United States' model of Technical Vocational Education and Training. He also works in partnership with the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE) and published several research papers on implementing data-driven instructional improvement.

He has work experience in education, health, construction and information technology, and government.

As an Eagle Scout, John developed a deep appreciation for working with his hands. In his early years, he built schools, homes and stores for Native Americans in Nebraska, students in Alabama, and the economically deprived in Appalachian Kentucky. John was in the Pennsylvania Chamber's Leadership Pennsylvania Program second graduating class and has served numerous state and national associations.

John worked in the College of Education at PSU and his wife and oldest son are Penn State graduates; his youngest son is a junior in the College of Engineering.

Position Statement

Some friends and family have asked me why I would be interested in serving on the board at a time of such controversy. The reputation of our alma mater has been temporarily tarnished, at least by those in the popular media. The simple answer is because, WE ARE ... PENN STATE and I believe in giving back. I also believe that it is our responsibility to provide a better pathway for those who follow us.

Our nation's greatness is based on the education of its people and the dignity of the work those people do. Penn State is a shining example of an organization that has dedicated itself to meeting those same goals.

If honored to serve on the board of trustees, three key issues would drive my focus:

- 1) Healing of the Penn State community,
- 2) Expansion of a student's ability to experience the workplace prior to degree completion,
- 3) Continuation of Penn State's long and proud history of national and international leadership.

I bring successful experience in establishing collaborative programs with various business groups, administrative and fiscal competence, knowledge of private sector training, and an operational knowledge of Commonwealth government agencies.

I would dedicate my time on the board to addressing the three issues above, making the best decisions for the Penn State community, and assuring that the experience of our alums provides the best opportunities for graduates of the future.