

## ED42A-04 Seeking Community Input to a Modular Course on GeoEthics

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*Palais des congrès de Montréal • 511B*

Communities are defined in many ways: kinship, culture, common interests, shared sense of purpose, a common understanding of behavioral norms. The geoscience community is no different. Given the dynamic nature of the geosciences, ours is a vibrant community whose intellectual progress benefits all humankind.

It is the persistent responsibility of members of this community to articulate and share our ethical norms with students who are developing as geoscientists. It is also essential to help them develop an ability to assess and critically evaluate those values. There are enough examples of unethical choices made by geoscientists to warrant a more deliberate effort to promote the ethical development of geoscientists while they are still students.

We are engaged in a project to develop, test and make available educational resources to help geoscience students develop into ethical members of our community. We intend to develop these resources across the spectrum ranging from very compact activities (texts, discussion prompts, videos, writing projects) that might take just a few minutes of class time, all the way up to an entire course on geoethics. We recognize that shorter activities are easier to assimilate into existing courses throughout the geoscience curriculum, but we also recognize the utility of developing activities that might take an entire class period, or multiple classes, or a week or more. We plan to develop modules of 1-3 week duration on a variety of topics in applied geoethics that can be combined to form an entire course.

Our most important task at present is to gather input from members of the geoscience community about their ethical concerns. What ethical lapses seem to be common? What ethical issues are most important because of the significance of their effects? We learn from our mistakes, so we seek case studies that involve ethical choices by geoscientists. We recognize that there are ethical issues that are specific to particular segments of our community (participants in higher education and academic research, various types of applied geologists, regulators). These are no less important because they might not be universal. Accounts of ethical problems and concerns, provided to us by the broader geoscience community, are essential if we are to develop resources that are relevant to current practice.

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### Previously Published

Yes - This author group presented a poster at the AGU Fall Meeting 2014 describing the idea of developing a modular course on geoethics. This presentation focuses more on our efforts to solicit input from the geoscience community related to that course. The overlap is primarily in the initial description of the course we are developing.

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