

Suggestions for infusing ethics throughout a geoscience department

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It is the responsibility of geoscience educators and all established geoscientists to promote an ethical atmosphere throughout their geoscience department or workplace. This responsibility is particularly important in academic settings: colleges, universities, and research institutes. Without a firm commitment to ethics, kindled from the very beginning of a novice geoscientist's studies, we cannot expect young geoscientists to fully understand the importance of ethics in providing society with reliable information about Earth's history, processes, resources, and hazards. Ethics is essential to the scientific enterprise.

Here are some suggestions for infusing ethics throughout a geosciences department. Begin and sustain a genuine conversation about ethics and integrity in your department. Create a departmental web portal for ethics that can be accessed through a simple, obvious, and persistent link on your department home page. Use the ethics portal to expose department members to ethics resources that have been made available by the broader science/geoscience community. Develop written public documents that describe the ethical norms, values, or expectations that are relevant to your department. Provide every geoscience student (at all levels) with useful basic information about applied ethics in science/geoscience. And encourage each member of the department to develop their own personal commitment to integrity and geoethics that is consistent with the most beneficent values and standards of the broader geoscience community.

If this work is done in an inclusive and transparent manner with constructive input from the whole department, this intentional and public commitment to geoethics can form an important part of the fabric that binds a department together. For more information, visit <http://CroninProjects.org/Ethics-EGU2018/> and <http://www.geoethics.org>.