Making Engineering Ethics Relevant to Students: ASCE Perspective

NAE/CEES Workshop on Overcoming Challenges to Infusing Ethics into the Development of Engineers

January 11, 2017
ASCE – Who are we?

Largest professional society for civil engineers
Approximately 150,000 members
Student members (domestic only): 23,700
Younger members (>35 year old): 28,900
ASCE Ethics Activities: Education

- Ethics Webinars and Presentations
- Ethics Publications
- Daniel W. Mead Prize
- Collaborative Involvement in Ethics Videos: Ethicana
- Ethics Hotline
ASCE Ethics Activities: Enforcement

- **Committee on Professional Conduct**
  - 5 members; at least 4 must be former ASCE Board members
  - Complaints from members or nonmembers
  - CPC investigates; can dismiss, take informal action, or make a recommendation to ASCE leadership for formal action
  - Formal disciplinary action = admonition, suspension, expulsion, publication
Most Common Ethics Cases: General

- Public Statements: 15%
- Employment: 10%
- Billing: 5%
- [CATEGORY NAME] Misconduct: 14%
- Other Financial: 14%
- Other: 5%

[Diagram showing the distribution of ethics cases with different colors and percentages]
Most Common Involving Younger Members:

- Billing Practices
- Employment
- Academic Misconduct
- Public Statements
Problems:

- Low reporting of cases
- High-profile cases typically focus on more senior engineers
- Minimal use/awareness of ethics hotline
- Ethics training/resources not specifically tailored to younger members
Future Opportunities

- Working with other societies to produce video ethics training for younger members
- Encourage younger member involvement in ethics committees
- Ethics training integrated in student/younger member leadership training
Questions?
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