

Encouraging and Supporting Engineering Faculty in Teaching Ethics

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Our approach to supporting engineering faculty in teaching ethics was designed to address two main issues:

- Most faculty members feel that they lack the knowledge of ethics required to teach it effectively
- Teaching and assessment methods used in ethics education are not commonly used in engineering education

We collaborated with colleagues in the Rock Ethics Institute to develop a workshop that would address these issues

Development team for first workshop (2002) included philosophy, engineering, and instructional design faculty.



Nancy Tuana

Director of Rock Ethics Institute
Professor of Philosophy



John Wise

Director of Engineering
Instructional Support



Tom Litzinger

Director of Leonhard Center
Professor of Mechanical Engineering



John Christman

Professor of Philosophy



Andy Lau

Professor, Engineering Design

The workshops have three main phases: teaching, designing, and reporting/feedback.*

TEACHING

- Ethical theory and frameworks
- Application to case studies
- Ethics Resources including assessment methods
- Instructional Design

2 days in May or June

DESIGNING

Faculty members design new ethics instruction and assessment

REPORTING/FEEDBACK

Faculty members share their designs and assessments, then receive feedback from team and participants

1 day in August

Faculty members receive one-week of summer salary for participating in the workshop.

***The workshop design was inspired by the workshops offered by Michael Davis at IIT.**

Over the last 15 years, we have offered three different versions of these workshops

- Integrating ethics into undergraduate courses
- Integrating ethics into graduate courses and enhancing training in scholarship and research integrity
- Creating an ethical classroom
 - Led by Dr. Tricia Bertram Gallant (UCSD)

You can learn more about the workshops here:

1. Learning and Teaching Ethics in Engineering: Preparing Engineering Faculty to Teach Ethics, N. Tuana, J. Wise, J. Christman, A. Lau, and T. Litzinger, 2003 Annual ASEE Conference.
2. Impact of a Faculty Development Workshop on Students' Understanding of Academic Integrity, K. Hochstedt, S. Zappe, T. Litzinger, T. Bertram Gallant, R. Melton, 2015 Annual ASEE Conference.
3. Creating a Community of Ethics Educators in Engineering, T. Litzinger, N. Tuana, X. Tang, <http://www.onlineethics.org/Resources/38201/35746.aspx>