



Institute News

CENTER FOR ETHICS GUIDES RESPONSIBLE ChE PRACTICE

AIChE is laying the groundwork for good engineering practice with a web-based Center for Ethics (www.aiche.org/ethics). The Center for Ethics catalogues a collection of resources that guide chemical engineers in their work and help them adhere to the ethical standards that they agree to uphold as members of the Institute and representatives of the chemical engineering profession. It includes AIChE Academy courses, conference presentations, *CEP* articles, and the Institute's codes of ethics and conduct.

The Center for Ethics also offers a forum where practitioners can discuss topics related to ethical practices. By fostering a shared commitment among its stakeholders to practice ethically, AIChE hopes that the Center for Ethics will contribute to the betterment of the profession and society.

Deborah Grubbe, an AIChE Fellow and past director of the Institute, says that an overriding objective of the Center is to create a strong culture of ethical practice in the profession. This goal, she says, begins with education. "By educating our members and by arming them with broad perspectives on ethical practice, AIChE hopes to assist members in making more-informed decisions about their works situations," says Grubbe. "In turn, business culture may then shift based on the ethical conduct and leadership that AIChE members bring to their respective organizations."

Since 1911, AIChE has published a Code of Ethics under the guidance of the Institute's Ethics Committee. AIChE's Board of Directors has adopted the Code of Ethics with the expectation that the professional conduct of its members will conform to it. Members attest to this commitment by signing their application for AIChE membership. The Code requires that members "uphold and advance the integrity, honor, and dignity of the engineering profession by being honest and impartial and serving with fidelity their employers, their clients, and the public; striving to increase the competence and prestige of the engineering profession; and using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of human welfare." A foundational tenet of the code states that members shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public and the environment in performance of their professional duties.

The Ethics Committee, comprised of the five most recent past presidents of AIChE, periodically modernizes the Code of Ethics to reflect current standards. The complete Code of Ethics is presented at www.aiche.org/ethics.

Counterpart organizations to AIChE also offer resources pertaining to the professional as well as the humanitarian aspects of ethical behavior. For example, the National Academy of Engineering's (NAE's) Center for Engineering Ethics and Society manages an Online Ethics Center for Engineer-

ing and Science (www.onlineethics.org), which focuses on ethics education across disciplines. Additionally, the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) maintains ethics resources and runs a hotline for NSPE members who have questions on ethical dilemmas. Engineers who are preparing for professional engineering licensure can avail themselves of the NSPE's ethics resources at www.nspe.org/ethics.

AIChE's new Center for Ethics, along with the Institute's Professional Development Committee, bring the work of the Institute's Ethics Committee to chemical engineers, with the Center's resources providing a breadth of perspectives. Grubbe notes that sharing this diversity of ideas, and developing understanding across cultures, are important factors in an appreciation of ethics in practice.

"Ethics is a very personal concept," says Grubbe. "With more and more of today's engineers working across boundaries of all sorts, any two people may not see one situation the same way." Unifying practicing chemical engineers in an understanding of ethical issues "can lead to better collaborations and avoidance of the potentially serious consequences of malpractice — both in terms of technical outcomes as well as individuals' careers," adds Grubbe.

AIChE MEMBERS ELECTED TO NAS

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS; www.nas.edu) recently elected 84 new members and 21 foreign associates to its 2017 class of new members. This year, three AIChE members were elected to the NAS:

Frank S. Bates, Regents Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Univ. of Minnesota

Klavs F. Jensen, Warren K. Lewis Professor of Chemical Engineering and Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Sang Yup Lee, Distinguished Professor, Dean, and Director, Dept. of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

Chartered in 1863, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science, and — with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine — provides science, engineering, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.



Bates



Jensen



Lee