

## A Year of Conversation on the Future of Practical and Professional Ethics

### An Invitation to Participate

#### The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics 25th Anniversary in 2016

This year at the Association's International Conference in Costa Mesa, California, the Executive Board announced plans for "A Year of Conversation on the Future of Practical and Professional Ethics." In 1991, when the APPE was founded, the work of scholars, educators, and professionals in many disciplines of practical ethics and professional ethics were beginning to emerge. Ethics Centers at colleges and universities were actively engaged in study and research on issues of practical ethics and professional ethics. Businesses and government agencies responded to fraud and misconduct cases by requiring ethics training for employees and grant recipients.

The work in practical ethics and professional ethics over the past 24 years has grown and matured significantly. Academic institutions have chairs and center directors in practical and professional ethics. Businesses, large and small, have ongoing ethics training programs led by skilled corporate ethics officers. Professional associations have developed and expanded ethical codes and enforcement measures to increase public confidence in licensed specialists. And, state and federal governments have created ethics agencies and commissions to set standards of conduct for civil servants at all levels.

#### What will the next 25 years bring?

During 2015-2016, the Association is launching a series of conversations, seminars and workshops to discuss the development of practical and professional ethics and explore future challenges and opportunities. The Association invites members and friends to host these conversations at academic institutions, businesses, professional societies, conferences, government agencies and in community forums, with the aim of contributing to a collection of information that can help shape future educational and professional development.

Please see the following suggested guidelines for organizing a single event or a series of conversations. Sample topics and questions for consideration are also available from the Association. The results will be compiled and shared at the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Association in Washington, D.C. Thursday, February 18 through Sunday, February 21, 2016.

For further details about how you and your institution can be part of the "Year of Conversation on the Future of Practical and Professional Ethics" or to get copies of the suggested guidelines and sample topics, please contact:

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## Suggested Guidelines for Workshop Organizers

Participating institutions are encouraged to host one or more workshops addressing the general topic of the "Future of Practical and Professional Ethics." Workshops may target individual or multidisciplinary subject areas (business, engineering, law, medicine, etc.) or examine topics common to many professions (conflicts of interest, privacy, deception, confidentiality, etc.). The goal is to identify emerging challenges in practical ethics and address these challenges through advanced education, research and leadership in professional associations.

### Basic Questions

- What ethical challenges do professionals currently face?
- What ethical challenges do you anticipate professionals will face in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
- How can a professional association, such as APPE, help address these challenges through research and teaching?

### Sample Format

1. Invite a speaker to lead-off the workshop discussion on a challenging ethical issue currently facing professionals.
2. Invite two or three panelists representing different professions, subject areas or perspectives to comment and expand on the speaker's points.
3. Follow with open discussion among workshop participants of what the professions and professionals need when encountering new ethical challenges? And, how might the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics address these needs?

### Initial Outcome

Workshop organizers are asked to send a description of the workshop and a summary of key findings, unanswered questions, and recommendations that emerged from the conversation to Ken Pimple, Ph.D., Coordinator for the APPE Year of Conversation, [pimple@indiana.edu](mailto:pimple@indiana.edu). Results from this national and international conversation will be compiled and shared with those attending the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Association in Washington, D.C., Thursday, February 18 through Sunday, February 21, 2016. An executive summary and the complete findings from all workshops will be available on the Association's website.

### Building on the Results

- The Association will facilitate the collaboration of one or many written manuscripts (e.g., a white paper, journal article, a special edition of a journal, or book) and encourage participants, individually or in groups, to generate their own documents. We hope that most or all of these manuscripts will be made widely available at no cost for users.
- The results generated through this Year of Conversations may inform the ongoing advancement of ethics education at academic institutions, businesses, government agencies and professional organizations.
- Participating institutions may develop new connections at their own and participating institutions that enhance the quality of their programs.