SEPTEMBER 2022 VOL. 11

# ETHICS CENTRAL

Office Of Internal Audit and Ethics

To Promote Ethical Awareness, the Office Of Internal Audit & Ethics sends out a quarterly newsletter. In this edition, we highlight Steps to Acting Ethically & with Integrity.

# JAMES REST'S 4 STEPS TO ACTING ETHICALLY

James Rest a well known cognitive-developmental researcher, developed a model of ethical behavior based on the presumption that there are four steps in moral development that lead to ethical action.



Moral Judgement



Moral Action

Recognizing a situation contains a moral issue

Having the ability to decide upon an ethical course of action Having the desire to act on the ethical decision & overcome the rationalization to not be ethical "this time"

Having the motivation and courage to act upon that desire

Is this a moral situation?

What should one do?

**Analyze actions** 

for core values &

consequences

Am I responsible?

Decide what you should do in this

situation

What kind of will is needed?

Employ academic

or technical skills

**Deploy social skills** 

needed to act

integrity

State the situation

Notice the presence of core value (fairness, caring, loyalty, authority & integrity)

Decide what an ethical person should do

Check your integrity/expose rationlizations

Exercise your will to achieve with

Determine if a moral situation exists

Explain the core values that justify the decision

Confirm decision prioritizing core values

I should not take a bribe

I have been offered a bribe One should not take a bribe

I did not take a bribe

An Adaptation of James Rest's Four Component Model for Achieving with Integrity

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### **ETHICS IN THE NEWS**

#### South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem may have "engaged in misconduct," ethics board says

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – A South Dakota ethics board on Monday said it found sufficient information that Gov. Kristi Noem may have "engaged in misconduct" when she intervened in her daughter's application for a real estate appraiser license, and it referred a separate complaint over her state airplane use to the state's attorney general for investigation.



South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem

Just days after a South Dakota agency moved to deny her daughter's application to become a certified real estate appraiser, Gov. Kristi Noem summoned to her office the state employee who ran the agency, the woman's direct supervisor and the state labor secretary.

After meeting in a closed-door session for one hour Monday, the board voted unanimously to invoke procedures that allow for a contested case hearing to give Noem a chance to publicly defend herself against allegations of "misconduct" related to "conflicts of interest" and "malfeasance."

However, the retired judges left it unclear how they will proceed. Lori Wilbur, the board chair, said the complaint was "partially dismissed and partially closed," but added that the complaint could be reopened. She declined to discuss what would cause the board to reopen the complaint.

**CBC News** 

## FALL REMINDERS



#### **Due October 15**







# ETHICS SPOTLIGHT INTEGRITY

"Integrity, said author C.S. Lewis, "is doing the right thing, even when no one is looking." Integrity is a foundational moral virtue, and the bedrock upon which good character is built.

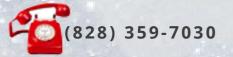
Acting with integrity means understanding, accepting, and choosing to live in accordance with one's principles, which will include honesty, fairness, and decency. A person of integrity will consistently demonstrate good character by being free of corruption and hypocrisy.

Integrity is revealed when people act virtuously regardless of circumstance or consequences.

This often requires moral courage. Integrity is the critical connection between ethics and moral action."

Ethics Unwrapped-UT Austin

Ethics Questions?





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