



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Ethics Center™

Red Raider Ethics Generator

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In an age where technology has broken down the last physical barriers between societies across the world, our generation has been introduced to an entirely new set of challenges.

In many ways, this chapter in our lives is a testing ground, and how our students spend their days long after they walk across the stage with a degree is an important indicator of things to come.

Texas Tech was the place where young men and women began journeys that would lead them to become CEO's, elected officials, professional athletes, astronauts, and so much more.

The common thread that stitches the fabric through each of their stories is the integrity they displayed along the way.

For us, this is the time in our lives where we begin a similar journey, strung together by that same thread.

With these new challenges, I urge you all to stand up today and do what is right, even when it seems like the least desirable option.

Many of the guest columns that will be published alongside my own will come from a wide range of faculty and staff throughout the university — with most having significant life experience to reflect on.

Frankly, I do not have any such experience to offer.

I am 21 years old, and I walk this campus every day with the rest of the student body.

In 10 years I may have something a bit more profound to relate back to our readers, but until then, I hope my message still has a place in this column.

If there is a single concept I have come to understand, it is that our students harbor the unbelievable capacity to display compassion and courage that I never expected to find when I first stepped foot on this campus.

Whether our students are volunteering in the community, or organizing philanthropy events on campus — our students make a difference.

The university has put great effort in distributing its statement on ethical principles to as many students and staff as possible, and I believe the message has clearly resonated.

It is not so much that we consciously reflect back on these principles; rather, I truly believe that our students inherently share the same values and vision outlined in the statement.

Specifically, our students particularly excel in their creativity and their innovation.

Just two years ago, many were writing off Tech's goal of Tier One research status as a pipe dream — a goal that would not be reached for at least two decades.

Today — two years later — we find ourselves at an incredibly important crossroad.

Texas Tech has outraced and out-researched virtually every other school working toward the same goal, and we are on track to set an even higher pace in the coming months.

The point is, none of that would have come to pass had our students not risen to the challenge before them.

Instead of meeting expectations, our faculty, staff, and students have exceeded all of them — and that is a testament to their innovation and creativity.

Community service and leadership are also included in our statement of ethical principles, and once again, our students have been leading conference schools for years on this front.

Regardless of the principle, regardless of my confidence or satisfaction, there is still so much more we can show for who we are as students and as Red Raiders.

After graduation, I want nothing more than each of our students to look back on their four years here, and see they are leaving our campus as even better versions of themselves than when they first arrived.

The words, "Strive for Honor," are etched in our cornerstones as much as it is our history.

Live out those words today as much as the first 20,000 Techsans did more than 80 years ago when that first cornerstone was laid.