

Need a refresher course on the Golden Rule?

Ethics Day brings Enron exec, broad range of moral explanations to Texas Tech

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With several high-profile guest speakers in the lineup, Ethics Day is hitting the Texas Tech campus with a bang today.

William D. Lawson, deputy director of the National Institute for Engineering Ethics, said he anticipates this year's Ethics Day to stand out as one of the biggest in recent years.

"Ethics Day is a great chance for students to hear some really outstanding speakers share their experiences," he said.

Ethics Day 2006 - "Do the Right Thing - A Campus Conversation on Ethics" will include speeches from guests such as Lynn Brewer, who penned "Confessions of an Enron Executive" based on her career at Enron.

According to a news release for the event, Brewer, a former Enron executive and CEO of The Integrity Institute Inc., is slated to discuss the details of Enron's rise and fall.

Additionally, Don Cash, chairman and emeritus director of Questar Corporation, is scheduled to speak out about ethics based on his roles in multiple organizations.

Invited to join Ethics Day by Tech's School of Law, Royal Furgeson, a U.S. district judge in El Paso, also will be addressing Thursday's Hub City audience on the issue of ethics stemming from his experiences in the judicial system, according to a news release.

Lawson said the event's wide range of speakers provides something for everyone.

"The appeal is broad," he said. "The items that will be discussed will be of interest to almost anyone."

He said ethics are especially important in this day and age with the blur of media attention on unethical behavior in society.

"There are all these headlines everyday that deal with moral failures," Lawson said. "There are all of these morals questions about things we must deal with."

He said although Ethics Day has a long history at Tech, this year's event is expanding to include more of the campus than have been enveloped in preceding years.

Patricia Harper, unit coordinator for the Murdough Center for Engineering Professionalism, said Ethics Day, which in the previous five years, has been hosted solely by Tech's College of Engineering, now is incorporating Tech's School of Law and the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business.

"Tech has a new campuswide focus on ethics," she said. "This event brings benefits to many students. It brings ethics to mind, and the more we talk about ethics, the easier they become to talk about."

She said the event is open to the public free-of-charge in the Lubbock Municipal Auditorium from 2 to 5 p.m. today.

Jimmy Smith, director of the Murdough Center for Engineering Professionalism, said the event will prove important for students because it is designed to prepare them for their professional careers after college.

"When they graduate and go into their careers in engineering, law or business, they will be faced with ethical issues," he said. "These speakers will be talking about how to address those issues."

He said the diverse range of speakers provide information on multiple fields that can become intertwined.

"There is a very dynamic interaction between the three fields," he said. "Engineering practice involves legal practice and it involves business practice."