Goal of the workshop

• Draw on the field of professional ethics to help think about the future
  – “Engineering Ethics in a Data Driven World”

• Review and discuss the code of ethics
  – Meet the State Board standard for continuing education in ethics.
Professional Ethics

• Ethics can seem confusing
• Hard to find a single common standard
• Seems relative to culture

• Association for Practical and Professional Ethics
• Simplify, but don’t oversimplify.
Philosophical Theories

• Character
  – Virtue Ethics, Aristotle (384–322 BC)

• Rules
  – Deontology, Kant (1724-1804)

• Systems
  – Utilitarianism, Bentham (1748–1832).
Three Levels

• Individual: Professional Integrity
  – Character, who you are as a professional

• Rules: Professional Code of Ethics
  – You have agreed to these rules

• System: Bird’s-eye view
  – How the profession benefits society.
Speeding, level 1, individual

• You, a good driver in a hurry
  • “Can I go a little over the speed limit?”

• You, being passed on the right by a car going 90 mph
  • “Why is that crazy driver endangering my family?”

• Character, good judgment
  • Virtues: caution, responsibility, courtesy, discretion.
Speeding, level 2, rules

• You, a policeman, listening to a driver you pulled over
• “I was in a hurry”
• Provide documentation for the emergency
• “Usually people don’t get tickets for this speed”
• Here is the law, duly passed by the legislature
• “I made an honest mistake”
• Consider using your discretion.
Speeding, level 3, system

- You, a legislator, revising law on speeding
- Purpose of rules
- Safe but efficient driving environment
- Coordination between drivers
- Rules must work for all drivers
- Differing skill levels, attention levels, etc
- Rules must be enforceable
- Detect and punish violations
- Handle grey areas.
Limits of the analogy

- Professions have expertise
- High degree of self-regulation
- Collective goal of a good reputation

- You are the driver, but the police and the legislature, too.
OTEC and the Code

• OTEC Theme
  – “Beyond 2018 - Advancing Mobility in the Connected World”

• Ohio A.C. section 4733-35
  – Code of Ethics for Engineers and Surveyors.
OTEC 2018 Theme

• “Beyond 2018 - Advancing Mobility in the Connected World”

• Level 3, System
  – “Imagine a day with zero fatalities on our highways. A place where data and safety merge to redefine how we move people and goods.”
OTEC 2018 Theme

• Level 3, System
  – “For over 70 years, OTEC has been the place for transportation professionals to learn about and discuss new ways to safely and efficiently move people and goods throughout the state.”

• Tensions between safety and efficiency.
4733-35-01 Preamble

- Level 3, System

- In order to safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public and the state of Ohio, to maintain integrity and high standards of skills and practice in the professions of engineering and surveying...
4733-35-01 Preamble

- Level 2, Rules

- The engineer or surveyor, who holds a certificate…shall be deemed to be familiar with their several provisions and to understand them.
Deemed?

- Ignorance of the rules is no excuse
- You have chosen to practice in Ohio
- Need to study the code regularly
- Help fulfill that obligation today.
Level 1, integrity

- The engineer or surveyor is obligated to act with complete integrity
- for each client or employer as a faithful agent
- serve the public, client and employer with devotion.
Values, not compliance

- Integrity—being true to your values
- Faithful agent—being trustworthy
- Devotion—being committed
- Mentoring new professionals.
Apply the 3 levels to a rule

- **System-bird’s eye view**
  - What is the general harm or benefit?

- **Rules**
  - What specifically does the rule say?

- **Individual Character**
  - Where is judgment required?
Elements of the code

- 03-Responsibility to the public
- 04-Public statements and certifications
- 05-Conflict of interest
- 06-Solicitation of employment
- 07-Improper conduct
- 08-Other jurisdiction
- 09-Records.
Responsibility to the public

- Protect the safety, health and welfare
  - Sever, refuse, report
- Undertake assignments
  - only if qualified by training and experience
- Objective in any professional report
- Expert witness founded upon knowledge.
Public statements and certifications

- No paid statements without disclosure
- Opinions based on knowledge
- Decline to sign
  - Beyond competence
  - Beyond scope of service
  - No direct supervisory control* (see 07).
Conflict of interest

- Avoid or disclose
- Promptly inform client
- No compensation from multiple parties
- Do not solicit or accept
  - Financial or other valuable considerations
  - Direct or indirect gratuities
- As public official do not
  - Review work under your direction.
4733-35-06

Solicitation of employment

• Do not solicit nor offer
  – any bribe for professional employment

• Seek employment
  – on the basis of qualifications

• Do not misrepresent qualifications or experience
  – Including brochures.
Improper conduct

- Do not sign or seal
  - Unless closely involved in the preparation of the work product
- Do not associate with fraudulent businesses
- Inform Board of violations
- Notify Board if problem in another jurisdiction.
Other jurisdiction, Records

- Violations in other jurisdictions
  - Are grounds for charge of violation of these rules
- Keep true and correct records
- Cooperate with the board in investigations.
Thank you!