



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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College students to grapple with ethical issues in national competition

Should a high school basketball team rein in its scoring against a weaker opponent? Should artists' copyrighted creations be fair game for tattoos? Is separating students by abilities a modern form of segregation?

Thirty-six teams of undergraduate college students from across the country will wrestle with these and other thorny issues in the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (APPE IEB)[®] national championship, March 4-5 in Portland, Oregon.

Using a set of cases that are drawn from real-life ethical challenges in education, business, life, and politics, teams participating in the APPE IEB[®] will be judged not by their answers to such questions, but by their ability to identify and analyze the ethical dimensions of each case in a clear, focused, and thoughtful manner and with an appreciation for varied perspectives.

Cases to be considered include:

- A high school basketball game in which the final score was 92-4
- A new professional football league that encourages violent play and sexualized cheerleaders to capture bigger audiences
- Separating middle and high school students into "tracks" based on academic achievement
- Adapting a copyrighted image for a tattoo
- Prioritizing wild panda conservation, which costs billions of dollars a year
- A private university initially denying permission for a student protest but later approving a Free Speech Zone in a remote part of campus

[See the full cases here.](#)

Approximately 180 teams from 135 schools competed in regional competitions last fall to earn a berth to the national competition.

“Like in life, the cases are complex, difficult to resolve, and sometimes polarizing,” said John Garcia, APPE IEB® Council Chair. “Unlike debate, in Ethics Bowl, teams are not assigned ‘pro’ and ‘con’ sides of an ethical issue. Each team’s goal is to identify the various ethical considerations, analyze the importance of those, and engage in civil discourse with another team that expands the conversation based on its position. Our goal is to help students see the value of continuing to engage with others despite difference, to understand more about views that differ from their own, and to help students think of collaborative solutions to solve societal problems.”

The 36 qualifying teams are:

Boston College
California State University Sacramento
Colorado School of Mines
DePauw University
Fordham University
Georgia Military College
Illinois Wesleyan University
Macalester College
Oakland University
Ohio Northern University
Oklahoma Christian University
Oklahoma State University
Rollins College
San Diego State University
Seattle University
Snow College
Stanford University
Taylor University
Tufts University
UC San Diego
United States Military Academy
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
University of Florida
University of Lynchburg
University of Maryland - College Park
University of Mississippi
University of North Georgia
University of the Incarnate Word

US Naval Academy
Utah State University
Utah Valley University
Virginia Military Institute
Whitworth University
William and Mary
Youngstown State University

The national competition is held in conjunction with the annual international conference of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE). APPE is an international non-profit membership organization founded in 1991 dedicated to advancing scholarship, education, and practice in practical and professional ethics.

About the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) is an international nonprofit membership organization that supports research, training, and education in practical and professional ethics. It was founded in 1991 to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching among educators and practitioners. APPE hosts an annual conference and the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl® each February. Since 2017 APPE has been housed at the Prindle Institute for Ethics at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Learn more at www.appe-ethics.org.

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Contact information:

Kristen Fuhs Wells, kristen@appe-ethics.org
765-658-4164