

Statement of Principles of Ethical Engagement.

(A) Preamble

The purpose of this Statement is to summarize fundamental, aspirational principles of ethical engagement that are applicable to all members of the university community. It summarizes important ethical principles of general application; it is not intended to replace or modify university policies containing standards tailored to specific circumstances.

All public employees and public officials have an individual responsibility to comply with Ohio ethics laws and related statutes, including Chapter 102 and Sections 2921.42 and 2921.43 of the Ohio Revised Code. In addition, all those who are employed by or represent the university are required to comply with its ethical conduct policy.

(B) Applicability

This Statement is applicable to all members of the university community. For this purpose, the university community consists of the students, employees, volunteers, and trustees.

(C) Our Mission Imperative

Through the provision and interdependence of teaching, learning, scholarship (including scholarship through engagement), the university has established, and continues to foster, an environment that is grounded in intellectual discovery, community engagement, and multicultural academic and social experiences, while guided in all such pursuits by rational discourse and civility to others. All members of the university community are expected to dedicate their service to, participation in, and administration of university programs and activities for the protection and furtherance of this mission imperative.

(D) Principles of Ethical Engagement

Each member of the university community is expected to observe the following principles of ethical engagement:

- (1) Public Trust: We must act in a way to inspire public confidence in the honesty and integrity of our actions. Violations of federal, state,

or local laws, breaches the public trust and has the potential to discredit the university and impede the furtherance of its mission.

- (2) **Respect for External Constituencies:** We shall treat all visitors to the university with professional and respect. We must also operate our facilities and conduct ourselves, on and off campus, in a way that does not unjustly deprive our community neighbors of enjoying the benefits of their rights as property owners. We must not act in a manner that causes any diminution in the quality of life in our surrounding neighborhoods, or that brings discredit to the university, or to any university constituent group.
- (3) **Respect for Internal Constituencies:** Bowling Green State University values an inclusive environment to enrich engagement with, understanding of, and respect for individuals. Within our community we acknowledge that different identities and life experiences determine how we each perceive and contribute to society. We strive to understand and embrace differences by breaking down barriers to meaningful participation to ensure that individuals are treated with dignity. As a community, we commit to advance this culture of belonging with a strategic focus on retention of students, faculty and staff.
- (4) **Community Engagement:** We consider the investment of the university's intellectual capital in public and private communities, by jointly working with others on problems of economic development, educational reform, and quality of life issues, to be a form of scholarship that benefits faculty, students, and our neighbors. We shall endeavor to expand the educational experiences of our students to include greater engagement with our external communities so that we may teach through the provision of needed services to others. When providing services to the community, we shall treat our neighbors with respect and dignity. We shall refrain from any action that would have the purpose or effect of disadvantaging or discouraging our students or colleagues who are, or who plan to be, engaged in such efforts as an approved element of academic instruction or scholarly research.
- (6) **Expenditure of Funds:** Anyone who participates in the decision or approval process leading to the expenditure of university funds must act for and in the best interest of the university. Integrity, honesty,

and a clearly auditable record of actions taken and decisions made are imperative. Transactional decisions on behalf of the University must not be influenced by extraneous factors or pressures and the avoidance of the appearance of impropriety is expected.

(E) Reporting and Assessment

Any actions inconsistent with these principles of ethical engagement may be reported through the [EthicsPoint website](#) or by calling EthicsPoint toll-free at 1-866-879-0426 or other appropriate university office or authority for assessment.