



Association for Practical and Professional Ethics

Ethics Center Directors (ECD) Summit

March 5, 2026

St. Louis, MO

2026 Theme:

Demonstrating the Effectiveness of Ethics Centers

Ethics Center Directors engage in an extraordinary amount of work and provide a valuable service for their campuses and communities. Sometimes this work takes the form of ethics education within individual classes and degree programs. Sometimes this work occurs in spaces adjacent to the classroom, through residence life and student affairs programming, campus-wide orientation, or other co-curricular learning experiences such as service-learning or internships. And sometimes it takes the form of community engagement and outreach, through extensive events and programs for specific audiences, topics and needs—ranging from summer camps to workshops at community libraries. Given the broad nature of the work, demonstrating the effectiveness of our efforts requires collecting various types of data, developing specialized reports, and thinking through the interests of audiences that provide various forms of administrative, academic, programmatic, and funding support for our work. This year, we focus on the specific types of data and methods that can be deployed to demonstrate empirically—and persuasively—the effectiveness of our work.

Our first presenter will show how behavioral analysis models from psychology can demonstrate learning and improvement of single individuals—of special interest for ethics educators focused on the effectiveness of moral education in courses and programs. Our second presenter will show how to gather big data sets and aggregate across large numbers of students, courses, and programs at an institution to show improvement and impact. Our third presenter will focus on measuring community value by collecting data on stakeholders, interest, and degree of outreach. Each of these data types, methods, and approaches should be valuable both to the annual reporting completed by many Ethics Center Directors as well as demonstrating the effectiveness of our work more broadly.

8:30 – 9:00

Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 am

Welcome and Introductions

Dennis Cooley: Welcome from APPE Board

Deborah Mower: Introduction to Theme & Presenters

9:15 - 10:0 am (45 min)

Speaker 1

Kate Kellum, University of Mississippi

- *Demonstrating effective growth and learning for students in courses and programs using methods from behavioral analysis*
- Q&A

10:00 - 10:15 am

Break

10:15 - 11:00 am (45 min)

Speaker 2

Keston Fulcher, James Madison University

- *Demonstrating effective event and program improvement at scale via the 8 Key Questions*
- Q&A

11:00 - 11:15 am

Break

11:15 - 12:00 pm (45 min)

Speaker 2

Alex Richardson, DePauw University

- *Demonstrating value and impact to donors and administrators through records, metrics, and scope*
- Q&A

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Working Lunch

Kristen Fuhs Wells and Deborah Mower, APPE Executive Director and Board Member

- *Working Lunch*
- *Developing the ECD: collaborative writing of voting procedures, bylaws, and roles*

APPE Ethics Center Directors:

Contact and Network

Stay in touch with APPE: appe_admin@appe-ethics.org

Share and communicate: ethics-centers@googlegroups.com