

**1812 - KEYNOTE: Geoethics as a common thread that binds a geoscience department together**

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It is the responsibility of experienced geoscientists to facilitate the development of students and novices as ethical geoscientists. Novice geoscientists learn from mentors as they move from their initial classroom instruction toward applying their basic knowledge in the field, in the laboratory, or in the office. We learn by example. I assert that creating and maintaining an environment within a geoscience department that is characterized by ethical personal, academic, and scientific interactions is an important way to model behaviors consistent with the aspirational norms and standards of the geoscience community worldwide.

Science is a deeply ethical search for understanding. In "The Search" (1934), physicist C.P. Snow wrote that "the only thing [that] has made science possible is that the truth shall be told all the time." The education of a novice geoscientist is incomplete if it does not include a durable foundation in geoethics.

As a practical matter, a department can take several steps to ensure that this ethical environment is created and sustained (see <http://CroninProjects.org/Ethics-RFG2018/> ). Bring geoethics into the routine conversation of the department in a direct and authentic way. Make it part of decision-making processes. Create an ethics page for your departmental website, and put a link to that page in a persistent high-level navigation bar so it will be seen wherever a person goes within the departmental site. The ethics page should link to departmental, institutional, and external resources that can inform and educate department members about what the "sense of the community" is about the meaning of being an ethical geoscientist. A geoscience department should begin an open, transparent, and ongoing process of compiling its own published set of norms and expectations for ethical behavior, and should encourage individual members to make a personal commitment to geoethics (e.g., <http://www.geoethics.org/geopromise>).