As the new semester begins, we encourage you to be active in fostering academic integrity on our campus to promote intellectual honesty and respect for intellectual property. We strive to provide an environment that encourages the ethical pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

As a community of learners, we know that humans make errors in judgment at times. The best cure for academic dishonesty is prevention and understanding. This year faculty are being asked to engage students in discussions to assist their understanding of the distinctions between acceptable and non-acceptable actions. To aid in these discussions, they may consider the use of one or more ethical vignettes made available to them through CourseSite. Greg Reihman, Director of Faculty Development, developed five short vignettes describing cases where student actions bring into question issues of academic integrity. These vignettes [available at http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCIQFjAA&url=https://www.lehigh.edu/~infdli/AcademicIntegrityVignettes.ppt&ei=75Q3UKTTLqXs0gG-zoDoAQ&usg=AFQjCNEkg1j2tJgDi1M2ooNa-f6kjCuiiw], including outcomes, are all based on actual cases that have come before the University Committee on Discipline.

Additional resources on academic integrity for students and faculty are available here. Included are sample syllabus statements for different course types that faculty can consider including in their course syllabi to outline their expectations and policies. You'll also find information about turnitin.com's plagiarism detection service for both faculty and students. The web resources also provide an understanding of the student Code of Conduct’s expectations, ways to report violations of the Code, and the thoughtful adjudication of Code violations to which the Dean of Students Office is committed.

The Undergraduate and Graduate Student Senates have affirmed students’ responsibility to uphold academic integrity by creating student statements of academic integrity (http://www.lehigh.edu/~indost/conduct/aireporting.shtml). During orientation, first-year students sign a pledge to abide by the Undergraduate Student Senate’s affirmation of the Code of Conduct. At the first-year convocation, a representative of the Student Senate presents a binder containing those signatures to the President. This symbolic ritual highlights the core values of honesty and integrity in Lehigh’s culture.

We thank you in advance for partnering to demonstrate that Lehigh University is a community of academic integrity.