

PROJECT SUMMARY
STRENGTHENING THE UNIVERSITY'S CULTURE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In the Fall of 2006, CMU's Center for Professional and Personal Ethics administered an on-line "academic integrity" survey in which over 4000 students and 500 faculty members participated. Designed by Dr. Don McCabe, an internationally recognized expert on academic integrity, the survey not only gathered data about academic dishonesty at CMU, but also asked participants about how, for example, they learned about CMU's academic integrity policy, and whether they believe the policy is adequately enforced. The large number of survey respondents was the result of a carefully organized publicity campaign that was developed by a number of CMU students. According to Dr. McCabe, CMU had the second highest response rate out of all of the 140 schools he has surveyed, off by a mere 122 responses.

The Fall 2006 results reveal that academic dishonesty at CMU appears to be below the national average. For example, out of over 80,000 undergraduate students surveyed in the U.S., 46% of these students admitted to "written cheating" (including both written and internet "cut and paste"). At CMU, 42% of the undergraduates admitted to written cheating. And whereas the national average of test cheating is 22%, the average at CMU is 19%. Thus, the survey results contain both good news and bad: the good news is that academic dishonesty at CMU is below that national average; the bad news is that it is still somewhat high. The survey results have provided a baseline against which progress will be measured when the survey is administered again in 2010.

CMU students are currently developing both an academic integrity handbook and a companion web-site (<http://academicintegrity.cmich.edu>). In addition to providing concrete examples which demonstrate violations of CMU's policy, these resources will help students if they have questions or concerns about CMU's academic integrity policy. The 2006 survey results indicate that the majority of CMU students (65%) learn about CMU's academic integrity policy from faculty. In addition, 41% of faculty learn about the policy from *other faculty*. The handbook and the web-site will not only provide another means by which students can learn about the policy, but will also provide faculty with a resource when discussing academic integrity with their students and with their colleagues. Both the handbook and the web-site will be available at the start of the Fall 2007 semester. Their efficacy will be measured in 2010, when the online academic integrity survey will be re-administered.