

The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly: Ethical Issues for School Psychologists

Topic: Ethics

Presenter: Phillip Koester, NCSP, Ethics chair WSASP

Abstract:

Historically, most associations' ethical standards speak to the Good, - What should professionals do to be ethical. They should be good communicators, good collaborators, good service providers etc. These definitions have strong cultural foundations. The Washington State Code of Conduct was implemented in the early 1990s and represents the Bad – what you should not do e.g. falsification of data, abandonment of generally recognized professional standards etc. The Code specifies different levels of sanctions and their burden of proof. School Psychologists are certified by OSPI and unethical behavior can be punished by the OSPI's Office of Professional Practice (OPP). Punishment comes in one of three forms: revocation of one's certificate, suspension of one's certificate, or a reprimand. How do the NASP ethical standards and Code of Conduct coexist? How are they different from ethics around the world and how does culture influence these? What are the implications for professional practice?

About the Presenter:

Phillip Koester is a certified school psychologist and school counselor. He has worked in Washington State public schools for 21 years and overseas for 12 years. He is past president of WSASP. Phillip was appointed by two superintendents of public instruction to represent WSASP on the Admissions and Professional Conduct Advisory Committee (APCAC). He also served for many years as the WSASP ethics chair. He is married to Liane, an educator, and they recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. They are proud parents of 2 adult children, one a civil engineer and the other a MBA educated rock climbing guide. Their adult children are both "third culture kids" who, grew up overseas, travelled the world, and are very culturally competent people. In recent years Phillip has learned to scuba dive and rock climb, proving that you can teach an old dog new tricks.