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Code of Ethics

Introduction

The way in which I perceive the world has always been informed by my heritage. I learned countless lessons in conversations with my father, but one of the earliest helped formulate the foundation of values I hold dear and it revolved around something as simple as a dandelion. He told me that all living things have spirits, as such we should treat all living things with respect, even a small dandelion. Since all living things have spirits, we are all connected and of equal value. The dandelion is no less significant because of its size or purpose; the value is from its being and our connection is thus as beings, not things- all things are connected. Lastly, the dandelion belonged to Mother Earth and we must always recognize and give thanks for what we borrow in some way; things don't belong to us, things are merely borrowed or exchanged. Therefore, it is our responsibility to protect Mother Earth because she provides all living things, this is our exchange for taking from her. From this conversation, I gathered several key values: respect, interconnectedness, and responsibility.

Preamble

Public servants are committed to serving the needs of a population, facilitating and creating interfaces to improve and assist in public welfare. As agents of humanity, their mission is to enhance human well-being and promote and conduct discourse in a manner that is beneficial to the continued, perpetual growth of the holistic human state. Fundamental to public service is the consciousness to the environment of diverse human nature and circumstance, in which servants operate and the causal, correlated effects of such relationships.

This constellation of core values reflects what is unique to public servants. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience. They must also be evaluated often, as an inflection of this diverse, ever-changing nature.

General Principles

Value: *Respect*

Ethical Principle: *Public servants recognize and respect the inherent worth of the human-being*

Public servants treat each person in a respectful manner, mindful to the principle that relations are conducted on the basis of human-to-human. They recognize human dignity in all facets of public service and will initiate an all inclusive approach in consideration of public affairs. Public servants promote equality through the conduct of consistent fair treatment, ensuring that discriminatory and prejudice practice are void in their capacity. They acknowledge individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity and will seek to understand and incorporate appropriate insights in consideration to their role as a public servant.

Value: *Interconnectedness*

Ethical Principle: *Public servants recognize the importance of human experience and relationships*

Public servants are cognizant to the inherent state of humanness. They will seek to deepen their knowledge of the integral significance of shared commonality of existence, recognizing the importance of this implication to relationships. Public servants understand that relationships are a result of human commonality and recognize the agency this warrants. They will utilize this collective resource as means to be better informed in thought and decision-making processes, as it pertains to public welfare. Public servants understand the influence of a meaningful, cohesive ethos in striving to improve well-being through public affairs.

Value: *Responsibility/Duty*

Ethical Principle: *Public servant's primary goal is to address and serve the needs of the population.*

Public servants uphold the laws and professional standards of conduct in their respective duty of discipline. Additionally, they exercise an awareness of relative social and societal standards, mindful that while these do not have associated legal sanctions, they are influential in both affect and effect the responsibilities of this role. Public servants are committed to wholeheartedly fulfilling the duty of their role as perpetrators of well-being and welfare. Public servants elevate service to others above self-interest. They draw on their knowledge, values, and skills to facilitate solutions to public needs by navigating and reinventing processes, functions and implementation of public affairs. They recognize the importance of a healthy public state and the responsibility in maintaining that state for the greater good of humanity and the communities in which they work. Public servants consult with, refer to, or cooperate with other professionals and institutions to the extent needed to serve the best interests of those with whom they work and for whom they work.

Value: *Integrity*

Ethical Principle: *Public servants conduct themselves in a trustworthy manner.*

Public servants will operate with a lead-by-example mentality, wherein they are models of upholding organizational, professional and disciplinary values. They are continually aware of the profession's mission, values, ethical principles, and ethical standards and practice in a manner consistent with them. Public servants act honestly, responsibly, and truthfully to promote ethical practices on the part of the organizations with which they are affiliated. Public servants will seek to uphold the highest standard of social integrity, as permitted within the discretion of the law.