Dear OU Graduate Students,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to take advantage of an upcoming Professional Ethics Training – Responsible Conduct of Research (PET-RCR) seminar offered on the Norman campus. Students who take advantage of this research ethics program will be better prepared and more competitive in the professions and academia. OU has been at the forefront of developing and implementing professional integrity training programs for student researchers. Rather than focusing on rules and principles, OU’s seminar looks at how people try to make sense of ethical issues. The training seeks to provide students from any discipline with realistic, work-based strategies for identifying and resolving complex ethical dilemmas.

While all graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of this seminar, the training now is a requirement for those students who are funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) or National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants and/or contracts. Mandated ethics training has been on the horizon for some time, but the NSF and NIH announcements last year came ahead of the expected schedule and ahead of other federal funding agencies. Many other universities have struggled to meet these mandates, while OU already is recognized as a national leader in ethics training for graduate students. Our training program has helped to inform and guide the national policy and guidelines.

Strategically, I believe that by making OU a leader in implementing the required training, we bring positive recognition to the university and impart an additional value to the students, post-doctoral researchers who work here, as well as all students pursuing advanced study at the University of Oklahoma. As participants in this training, you not only receive a quality training experience but also are associated with a university recognized as one of the national leaders in professional ethics training in advanced study and research. This is particularly important given the national concern over ethical behavior in the financial sector as well as science and engineering research.

Students who have previously participated in PET-RCR training do not need to retake the training. If you have questions about Professional Ethics Training, please contact the Graduate College at prof.ethics.training@ou.edu or via telephone at (405) 325-3811.

Best regards,

T. H. Lee Williams
Dean, Graduate College
Regents Professor