



## **Integrating Virtue Together - Call for Proposals**

Integrating Virtue Together is an opportunity for faculty from across institutions and disciplines to join a community of practice in integrating moral virtues into a course they will teach in the 2024-2025 academic year.

### **Overview**

What is the purpose of higher education? In professional education, most would concede that ethics needs to be part of professional identity formation, but this version of ethics is often a set of rules or principles to follow and harms to avoid. Teaching, however, is not just about knowledge, but about shaping who people are; ethics is not about just analysis, but about developing the practical wisdom necessary to make good decisions. Higher education is an institution that exists to develop moral purpose and character in individuals as they pursue knowledge, and all disciplines, whether business or biology or engineering, exist to promote human flourishing.

We want our students to graduate with moral purpose – a commitment to something that transcends their own self-interest – and with character traits such as honesty, compassion, and justice that help them live into their purpose and navigate their work. Cultivating this kind of character can happen as students study particular subjects rather than through supplemental programs. In *Mathematics for Human Flourishing*, Francis Su presents a vision of math as more than instrumental. He sees mathematical inquiry and learning as the practice ground for cultivating virtues and experiencing more fully what it means to be human. Through this initiative, we will work with faculty to build 2-3 virtues into a course syllabus, integrating experiences, reflections and frameworks that use the material of the particular discipline as a way to build and practice character.

We are not looking for experts in virtue ethics. Rather, we are looking for faculty who share a vision for investing in students as full people, and who would like to develop the tools to be more intentional about the ways their courses shape students. This community of practice will

provide background in possible virtues to cultivate, pedagogical expertise, and ongoing support toward this work. Faculty members in all university schools and departments are welcome to apply.

**Chosen Faculty Will:**

- Receive a \$1000 stipend
- Participate in a working conference at Notre Dame on March 21-23, 2024. All expenses for the conference, including travel, will be covered.
- Receive feedback and support from experts in pedagogy as they work to integrate moral virtues into a syllabus.
- Be expected to integrate 2-3 moral virtues into a course that they will teach in the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Be expected to participate in monthly virtual meetings with the community of practice in May, June, July, and August 2024.
- Be expected to share their revised syllabus to be posted on the Virtues & Vocations website.

**To Apply:**

Proposals should include the following sections and be submitted to [rsiscoe@nd.edu](mailto:rsiscoe@nd.edu) by Friday, December 15th, 2023, at midnight. Award recipients will be notified in January.

- Background on the institution and the proposed redesigned course (150 words)
- A statement explaining the relevant pedagogical experiences of the instructor leading the course redesign (150 words)
- Justification of the need for virtue development as a part of the course, along with the virtues that the instructor hopes to integrate into the course (500 words)
  - The list of virtues we will work on includes compassion, courage, gratitude, honesty, humility, integrity, justice, temperance, patience, moral purpose, beauty, and love. You will have the opportunity to learn more about these and other virtues and choose which would work for your course, but please include whether there are virtues that you already think would be a natural fit with your content.
- An explanation of the sustainability of the course changes moving forward. Is the department supportive of the course changes into the future? Will the instructor continue teaching the course in future years? (250 words)
- An instructor CV
- A letter of support from the instructor's department head