NCICU Holds 4th annual Ethics Bowl

RALEIGH, N.C. – Students from Wake Forest University won the 2015 NCICU Ethics Bowl, a two-day competition at the Campbell University School of Law in Raleigh that attracted more than 100 students from 20 of North Carolina’s independent colleges and universities.

Barton College was runner-up in the fourth annual Ethics Bowl, which this year focused on ethics in education. Teams from High Point University and Methodist University also competed in two semi-final matches.

In the final match, the teams from Wake Forest and Barton addressed the question of whether it is ethical to require college football players to be enrolled as full-time students and at the same time spend 40 hours to 50 hours a week on their sport.

Teams in matches throughout the competition addressed issues ranging from how a student should deal with a professor who takes credit for the student’s research to the dilemma a teacher faces in deciding whether to fail a student who misses too many classes because of a family crisis.

A program of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, the statewide office for the state’s 36 independent nonprofit colleges and universities, the Ethics Bowl is the culmination of months of preparation on each campus that is designed to give students an opportunity to think critically and collaboratively about how to make ethical decisions.

"It teaches us how to cooperate with others and see different perspectives on real-life issues," says Dare Hincks, a senior biology and chemistry major from Sanford who was a member of Meredith College team.
Alyson Francisco, a faculty member at Salem College who served as campus coordinator for the school’s Ethics Bowl team, says preparing students for the competition "helped me do what I do every day, which is develop people for the marketplace."

The marketplace requires "having interpersonal skills, the tolerance of others' opinions, to help them manage their actions and make decisions that will help everyone move forward," says Francisco, Kimbrough Chair in Business and Economics at Salem College and former vice president of customer operations at Sara Lee Corp.

In addition to the team competition, students participating in the Ethics Bowl had the opportunity – during the matches and at a reception and dinner at the North Carolina Museum of History – to meet corporate, foundation and government leaders from across the state who served as judges and moderators for the competition.

Lead sponsors of the Ethics Bowl, which attracted 24 sponsors, were Duke Energy and Wells Fargo.

"The tough thing in today's world is not pointing someone in the right direction to achieve a goal but to achieve the goal in a moral and ethical fashion," says Jeff Stoddard, vice president for commercial lending at SunTrust Bank, an Ethics Bowl sponsor.

Charles Piper, principal and vice president at BCWH Architects, also an Ethics Bowl sponsor, says today's college students "will be challenged with ethical dilemmas every day in their professional lives."

Sponsoring the Ethics Bowl provided an opportunity "to be personally engaged with these institutions," says Piper, whose Richmond, Va., firm focuses on campus planning and landscape architecture.

At Friday night's dinner at the Museum of History, NCICU gave special recognition to
Frances Fontaine who is retiring in April as director of research and programs after 28 years with the organization, and to Jesse F. McCartney, retired academic dean and provost at Catawba College who has served as statewide coordinator for the Ethics Bowl for all four years.

"Frances and Jesse have done an exceptional job with the Ethics Bowl, and leave an enduring legacy that will continue to help prepare and inspire future generations of students to think and act ethically, said A. Hope Williams, president of NCICU.

McCartney, in remarks at the dinner, said the Ethics Bowl involves “a process that ideally reveals and utilizes the values of intellectual curiosity, tolerance, restraint, clarity of thought and expression, collaboration and teamwork, and a keen sense of good ethics.”

Those values, he said, “will make good students into good citizens and will lead to a good society and a good life.”

**About NCICU Ethics Bowl**

Launched in 2012, the NCICU Ethics Bowl is an annual statewide competition that gives students an opportunity to think critically and collaboratively about how to make ethical decisions. The goal of the event is to prepare students for the kinds of ethical dilemmas they will face in the workplace. The competition places a premium on preparation and quick thinking, with team members expected to field questions on the spot from other teams. Previous Ethics Bowls have focused on ethics in health care, ethics in communications, and ethics in the workplace.

**About NCICU**

NCICU is the statewide office for North Carolina’s 36 independent, nonprofit institutions of higher education. Formed in 1969, NCICU helps develop scholarship support, engages in state and federal policy work, and partners with the state’s other education systems. We develop research and information, support staff development, and coordinate collaboration among our institutions. Those institutions generate over $7 billion a year for the state’s economy, plus $400
million in taxpayer savings. They employ over 65,000 people and together represent the state's second-largest private employer.