Students get hands-on experience with real-world ethical leadership
Ethics Onsite connects students from multiple college campuses with companies to explore what ethics looks like in a business setting.

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On November 18 the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program (DFEI) at CU Denver Business School, along with IMA Financial Group, Inc., presented the first in-person Ethics Onsite program since the beginning of the pandemic. CU Denver’s Ethics OnSite program provides students with the opportunity to learn from high-level executives about how to create an ethical business culture and to mitigate the risk of an ethical breach. Students walk away with a better understanding of ethics, methods to resolve ethical dilemmas, and valuable connections to top level executives. The program is open to both graduate and undergraduate students. Space permitting, CU Denver’s DFEI invites students from other area universities to participate. Along with CU Denver students, students from Metropolitan State University of Denver and CU Law attended the Ethics OnSite program at IMA.

The Ethics OnSite program at IMA’s headquarters in Denver, CO was a half day full of opportunities to learn first-hand from senior leaders about the ethical culture of IMA. Five students out of the group of 19 students had the privilege to take a tour of IMA headquarters after the program.

“The Ethics Onsite program gave us an inside look at a company aligning their business goals with ethical principles by instituting compliance guidelines incorporating ethics and establishing ethical benchmarks gauging their organization’s success.” – Ryan Trembath, CU Law Student

The IMA Ethics OnSite program consisted of three main topics all centered around the DFEI’s eight ethics principles and IMA’s core values. The agenda featured:

- IMA’s governance philosophy presented by SueAnn Schultz (Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Counsel, and Director)
- A panel discussion about culture, privacy and business ethics with Lauren Karagozian (Colorado Market President), Tim Burke (Executive Vice President, Director of Cyber Risk, and Commercial E&O) and Mark Ware (National Practice Director, Director of Client Services, and Technology)
- A keynote address by Nathan Havey (Founder, Thrive Consulting Group)
“I believe every student should attend an event as what was put together to learn and gauge perhaps a different perspective of what goes on inside a business.” – Rodrigo Contreras, CU Denver Student

Nathan Havey’s keynote wrapped up the program with a presentation on ‘Corporate America’s Role in Solving Macro Problems.’ Havey is working to build a society where the definition of success for business is based on more than merely profit. He brought in real-world examples including a large coffee franchise and a flooring company who view focusing on a wide array of stakeholders, including employees, customers, suppliers and the community, as not a “responsibility,” but rather an “opportunity.” Not only is Havey working to expand the mind of business, but he also wrote and directed an award-winning film, Beyond Zero, on the topic of business purpose.

“The insights about the importance of creating value to stakeholders and developing a culture of caring was a significant learning experience for me. It was interesting to see how a company can get a huge advantage when creating solutions for worthy problems that will benefit both the company and society.”
- Beatriz Chuffi Rodrigues, Student at Metropolitan State University of Denver

Established in 2015, Ethics OnSite has taken students all over the United States and continued successfully through the pandemic in a virtual format with recent programs hosted by FirstBank, VF Corporation, Arrow Electronics, SAIC, BAE Systems and The World Bank. In April 2023, students will get the opportunity to travel to New York City and spend time with top executives and ethical leaders at TIAA.

Visit the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative at CU Denver website for more information on upcoming Ethics Onsite programs and other events.