

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

To: Advisors, Deans, Directors, and Chairs
From: Lorenzo Santavicca, ASMSU President (president@asmsu.msu.edu)
Date: August 25, 2017
RE: Spartan Code of Honor – Academic Pledge Campaign

Student leaders have recognized the challenging task of discouraging plagiarism from the academic community. The Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) is proud to be continuing awareness of the Spartan Code of Honor academic pledge, focused on valuing academic integrity and honest work ethics at Michigan State University. The pledge reads as follows:

“As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.”

The Spartan Code of Honor academic pledge embodies the principles of integrity that every Spartan is required to uphold in their time as a student, and beyond. The academic pledge was crafted with inspiration of existing individual college honor codes, establishing an overarching statement for the entire university. It was formally adopted by ASMSU on March 3, 2016, endorsed by Academic Governance on March 22, 2016, and recognized by the Provost, President, and Board of Trustees on April 15, 2016.

Student conduct that is inconsistent with the academic pledge is addressed through existing policies, regulations, and ordinances governing academic honesty and integrity: Integrity of Scholarship and Grades, Student Rights and Responsibilities, and General Student Regulations.

While the Spartan Code of Honor has been a student-led effort, I continue to ask for faculty support across the MSU community to aid ASMSU in educating our undergraduate students on the importance of this campaign and its efforts.

I encourage you to visit our website at honorcode.msu.edu to learn more about how the Spartan Code of Honor academic pledge is critical to share with your staff and their students. On the website, students are urged to take the pledge, where they can publicly display their commitment to academic honesty with fellow Spartans. Testimonials and resources are also available to both faculty and students, along with locations to improve work ethics, study resources, as well as information related to the Ombudsperson’s office and much more.

Lastly, I encourage faculty to include the Spartan Code of Honor academic pledge in syllabi this year. By including the pledge in course syllabi with other notes regarding no-tolerance for academic dishonesty, our MSU community will more closely realize the collective effort to educate our students about the detrimental effects these actions have on our reputation as a world-class institution.

Together, *Spartans Will* remain committed to honesty and integrity in our work – inside, and outside of the classroom.



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