The Pledge of the Computing Professional

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Thank you for your time. I hope that The Pledge will be of interest to SIGCAS.
What we are

*The Pledge of the Computing Professional* is a new organization to promote the notion of computing as a recognized profession at the time of graduation for students in Computer Science and other computing-related programs.

We are…

- Modeled after the *Order of the Engineer*
- Providing a rite-of-passage ceremony at graduation
- Promoting and recognizing ethical and moral behavior
What we are *not*

We are *not*…

- A new organization to “compete” with ACM, IEEE-CS, etc.
- Anything to do with certification or licensure
- An honor society
- Exclusive to only specific sub-areas of computing
- Exclusive to only certain types of institutions
- A replacement for the ACM Code of Ethics
Our website

Videos of actual ceremonies

The Pledge of the Computing Professional

Ready to take the Pledge?

The Pledge of the Computing Professional is a new organization to promote the notion of computing as a recognized profession at the time of graduation for students in Computer Science and related programs. The Pledge is modeled after the Order of the Engineer—a long-standing rite-of-passage for graduates from engineering programs. The Pledge of the Computing Professional is solely intended to promote and recognize the ethical and moral behavior of graduates of computing-related degree programs as they transition to careers of service to society.

The Pledge of the Computing Professional entails a rite-of-passage ceremony for graduates from computing programs. The rite-of-passage ceremony dovetails nicely with existing Order of the Engineer ceremonies for Colleges that have both Engineering and Computer Science programs. The rite-of-passage ceremony is conducted by chapters or Nodes— at institutions throughout the US (with plans to expand internationally). For further information, click on a link on the left side of this page.

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For further information about The Pledge of the Computing Professional contact Ken Christensen (christen@cse.usf.edu) or John K. Estell (jkestell@onu.edu). The site webmaster is Becky Greaser (webmaster@computing-pledge.org). We look forward to hearing from you.
Who we are – people

We started as a group of 17…

- Stephen O. Agyei-Mensah (Clarion University of Pennsylvania)
- Bill Albrecht (McNeese State University)
- Anne Applin (Southern Maine Community College)
- Beverly Bachmayer (Intel)
- Ken Christensen (University of South Florida)
- Venu Dasigi (Southern Polytechnic State University)
- Molisa Derk (Dickinson State University)
- John K. Estell (Ohio Northern University)
- Leslie D. Fife (Louisiana State University, Shreveport)
- Dennis Frailey (Raytheon, retired)
Who we are – people continued

Group of 17 continued

- Rebecca (Becky) Grasser (Lakeland Community College)
- George C. Harrison (Norfolk State University)
- James K. Huggins (Kettering University)
- Benjamin Kuperman (Oberlin College)
- Jody Paul (Metropolitan State College of Denver)
- Ray Schneider (Bridgewater College)
- Tom Stokke (University of North Dakota)
Who we are – incorporation

We are a non-profit

• Necessary to incorporate to be able to accept money
• We are incorporated in the State of Florida
• Seeking 501(c)3 status this spring 2012
  - Or else we pay taxes
Going into our second year

Our second year of induction ceremonies…

- Ohio Northern University
- University of South Florida
- Kettering University
- McNeese State University
- Metropolitan State College of Denver
- University of the Pacific
The induction ceremony

Script for a Pledge Ceremony (available on-line)

• Read the history of The Pledge

• Have initiates recite the oath while standing
The induction ceremony continued

Script for a Pledge ceremony… continued

• Recognize each initiate by walking across a stage
  - Present pin
  - Present certificate
May 11, 2011

Inaugural Induction Ceremony – Metropolitan State College of Denver

Pledge of the Computing Professional
The Pledge of the Computing Professional

I am a Computing Professional.

My work as a Computing Professional affects people’s lives, both now and into the future. As a result, I bear moral and ethical responsibilities to society.

As a Computing Professional, I

Firstname Lastname

pledge to practice my profession with the highest level of integrity and competence. I shall always use my skills for the public good.

I shall be honest about my limitations, continuously seeking to improve my skills through lifelong learning. I shall engage only in honorable and upstanding endeavors.

By my actions, I pledge to honor my chosen profession.

Signature of inductee

May 6th, 2011
The Pledge (oath)

I am a Computing Professional.

My work as a Computing Professional affects people's lives, both now and into the future.

As a result, I bear moral and ethical responsibilities to society.

As a Computing Professional, I pledge to practice my profession with the highest level of integrity and competence.

I shall always use my skills for the public good.

I shall be honest about my limitations, continuously seeking to improve my skills through life-long learning.

I shall engage only in honorable and upstanding endeavors.

By my actions, I pledge to honor my chosen profession.
The symbol

Can you decode this?

It is “Honor” in ASCII
Why we are

We are…

• to the computing professions what the *Order of the Engineer* is to the engineering professions

• a rite-of-passage ceremony for computing graduates

• an entry into, and recognition of, the profession

• a means of validating the importance of ethics
Future goals

We seek to...

- **Grow**... have more institutions join and participate
- **Improve**... have greater impact
- **Affiliate**... work together with like-minded groups to promote computer ethics
Discussion

Where do we go from here?

• Does The Pledge fit with SIGCAS?