BEFORE A STUDENT SUCCESSFULLY FINISHES BUSINESS 1301. a foundations course for freshmen and transfer students, he or she will have recited a 17-word code of

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The student will have heard and read the code in almost TWO DOZEN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES - including Amharic, Croatian and Vietnamese – to name just a few. He also would have seen the code on every test he took.

And although he might not think his behavior changed as a result of repeating the words daily, the student will likely

The 17 words make up the Baylor University Honor Code, and they are striking in their brevity and simplicity:

## BAYLOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY SHALL ACT IN ACADEMIC MATTERS WITH THE UTMOST HONESTY AND INTEGRITY.

"It's a one-sentence honor code, which in itself is extremely good," said Management professor BLAINE MCCORMICK of the length. He teaches Business 1301, "Business, the Economy, and World Affairs," and has lectured on the honor code for years in this course that emphasizes decision-making. However, he has modified the way he teaches it in remarkable ways over the years, giving the honor code brand

status with students who have gone through his classes.

When McCormick first started quizzing students on the honor code, only about 50 percent could identify it on a multiple-choice test. That lack of knowledge about such a short and important message embarrassed him. He lectured

Still, only about 70 percent of his test-takers spotted the correct version on tests.

So McCormick changed his methods. He knew that employees of an international organization headquartered in Waco recited their "code of values" before every meeting, "and it's long - a page long," he said. He also thought about other recitations that children grow up knowing by heart.

"Can you say the Pledge of Allegiance? Can you say the Lord's Prayer? Most likely, yes," McCormick said. "These really important things we ought to be saying again and again. So I wondered if we said the honor code before every class, would students begin to internalize it and remember it?"

He decided to test his theory, and recognition of the code on his tests finally made it to 100 percent.

Although some of McCormick's students were surprised to discover that the class recites the code every day, they recognize the significance of doing so. Continuous recitation "makes the thought of the honor code more prevalent," said junior Accounting major Samantha Stephenson, a course leader for McCormick. Although she considered herself an ethical person before arriving at Baylor, she sees the impact that familiarity with the code of behavior has had on her

"Reciting it, knowing it and living it are different for me than for students who don't recite it every day," she said. The recitation makes it an ever-present part of her educational career, and thus, her life.

"I will be put into a situation as an accountant where I will have to make ethical decisions," Stephenson said. "I know that I have the foundation to make the right ethical decision. The relevance and presence of the honor code and the ethical culture of Baylor are really going to impact my career as a professional."

That was McCormick's goal. "Going to college is one of the most demanding jobs in America," McCormick said. "Once I started thinking about student life as a job, I realized there is a code of ethics at work, so I asked, 'What applies here – where our core business is academic ethics?""

Many organizations set the tone for employee behavior with clear codes of ethics that apply to everyone,

"MY HOPE IS THAT STUDENTS CHOOSE ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL REMIND THEM OF HOW IT WAS AT THE BUSINESS SCHOOL," MCCORMICK SAID. "IT IS HARDER TO BEHAVE HONORABLY WHEN THE ENVIRONMENT

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