**Ethics in Oklahoma
*By Shannon Warren for The Journal Record
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Lance Armstrong’s deceit. Harvard’s cheating scandal. Walmart Mexico’s bribery fiasco. It has been a busy time for rascals. But, take heart. A refreshing pause from all the bad behavior can be found right here at home.

For the past eight years, the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium has honored organizations who are doing their best to promote high standards of integrity at work. Take, for instance, Tulsa-based ONEOK. Under the leadership of their Chairman/CEO John Gibson and Vice President of Compliance and Ethics, Neal Lehman, this company emphasizes open communication and diversity as key elements of its strong ethical culture.

They will be honored at the annual OK Ethics Compass Award luncheon held in Oklahoma City on May 15. Joining them is another Tulsa-based company, Linde Process Plants, Inc., whose leaders are being recognized for a dedicated approach to ethics that combines a strong Anti-Corruption Guide with key training to ensure high standards are maintained.

In addition, Thomas Legan and Jacque Fiegel of Prosperity Bank (formerly Coppermark Bank) have been named Executive Pilot Award recipients for modeling high standards of ethical behavior in their workplace, profession and community. Previous recipients include Devon Energy’s Larry Nichols, *The Journal Record’s* Ted Streuli and Kimray’s Thomas Hill.

A new category, the Community Impact Awards, will be given to those entities whose initiatives significantly advance ethical behavior on Oklahoma campuses. Winners of these awards include Metro Technology Centers, charter school Dove Science Academy (OKC) and SandRidge Energy who partnered with Public Strategies to reach several northeast Oklahoma City public schools. These winners emphasize character development and involve students, staffs and sometimes even Board members in these endeavors.

In addition, Community Impact Awards were also earned by organizations that have positively contributed to overall community standards by promoting principled leadership. These include the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute in Hobart for its Inspired Leadership Program and the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Center for Non-Profits is being recognized for its Standards of Excellence program serving non-profit entities with virtuous aspirations.

For a long time, Oklahomans have been known for our character traits of courage and friendliness. Now, it’s time to add integrity to our list of accolades. Pulling together to do the right thing is what makes this a great state to raise our families and pursue careers.

*Ms. Warren is Founder of OK Ethics. Visit* [*www.okethics.org*](http://www.okethics.org) *for more information.*