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Rochester Area Business Ethics Foundation Essay

The Business Ethics course offered by the Saunders College of Business has helped me to develop an ethical lens especially when it comes to situations involving business concepts. It has taught me the value of ethics and how important it is to be ethical. It helped me to understand that my decisions do not only affect me but they also affect other people. Learning to be ethical is not easy as it is an ongoing learning process and it varies from situation to situation.

Last semester, I took a job as a part-time Math Tutor. I had to work approximately 10 hours a week, at a \$30 per hour rate. A few weeks before the end of the school semester, the students' parents told me that they had to let me go because they could not afford the extra cost of tutoring. I realized that the student really did care about learning and that the time I did spend with him helped to increase his understanding of the subject. Considering that finals were around the corner, I made the ethical decision of continuing to tutor the student until he had taken his finals without being paid for that time. Looking at the big picture, I determined that in this situation the goal was to help the student acquire a greater understanding of the subject of math instead of working to maximize my profit.

Another recent incident where I was faced with an ethical dilemma was at my Co-op where I was an Internal Audit intern. In the beginning of my co-op, my employer talked to me about ethics and integrity. Just when I was about to close an audit engagement, I found out that the information our client had given us was not one hundred percent true. I had to decide whether I should notify my supervisor or not. If I chose to notify my employer, it would increase my work load and I would have to record more hours for the project which could impact my performance. Despite of the extra work, I decided to disclose that information to my supervisor. When I look back, I feel that I made the right decision because it helped our client in the long run and it reassured my supervisor that she could trust me.

If we think ethically and morally and act in that way, we can be successful individuals in this society. In order to add value to a business, I have to become an ethical leader. I need to understand that I have to live with the decisions that I make today so it is important that I evaluate each situation carefully before reaching a conclusion. I will always try to become morally wise and continue to grow in the ethical direction so I can prevent harm and do well to others.