

## Letter from President Benson to Campus 8-13-2014

As higher education becomes increasingly complex, Eastern Kentucky University must recommit to maintaining a strong ethical culture. Universal compliance with laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures is critical for the future of our institution.

All members of the University community share in the responsibility of compliance. Therefore, we must hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and aspire to act in accordance with the values of integrity and openness. Our conduct significantly contributes to public trust in our institution and to our reputation for quality and excellence.

To undergird EKU's established policy process, the EKU Board of Regents approved the *Colonels Comply* program during their most recent meeting on June 9, 2014. *Colonels Comply* will be implemented during fall 2014 to support and to enhance compliance with our current policies and procedures as well as with federal and state laws and regulations.

The *Colonels Comply* program will further EKU's mission and strategic plan by proactively promoting an institutional culture of compliance among students, faculty, staff, and administration through:

- Effectively identifying, prioritizing and managing potential violations of law, regulation, and University policy and procedure, and
- Effectively establishing a control environment that reflects the legal and regulatory scheme in which the University is obligated to operate.

The intention of *Colonels Comply* is to empower all of us to work collaboratively to advance our values by fostering a ***culture of compliance***. This environment is best achieved when constructed upon a strong ethical foundation that supports adherence to the law and institutional policies and procedures while propelling us into our promising future.

One of the key elements of the *Colonels Comply* program is the Ethics and Compliance Hotline. This tool, coupled with compliance risk assessments surveys, educational seminars, and other compliance tools will be forthcoming during this academic year.

To assist the University in this effort, I have asked Dr. Judy Spain, Professor, MMIB Department, to be the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer. Dr. Spain, along with Beth Ballard, Director of Internal Audit, and Matt Roan, Special Assistant to the President, will form the Compliance Executive Steering Committee. Additional committees, such as the Compliance Oversight Committee and the Compliance Working Group Committee, will maintain a broad range of University representation and inclusiveness as we all share in this endeavor.

By working together and supporting one other, our actions can exemplify excellence, and we can pursue integrity in all that we do. More information about *Colonels Comply* is available at [Colonelscomply.eku.edu](http://Colonelscomply.eku.edu). Please visit this website often for continued updates on this important program.