

## Honor Code Development Stages: A Timeline

David Gould, former Chair of the Theology Department at Saint Andrew's School, and John Roberts, Ph.D., honor council advisor at the Westminster Schools, have crafted a wonderful resource handbook that explicitly maps out how to institute an honor council and create an honor code in K-12 schools. It provides an in-depth chronology of the creation process. Below is a snapshot of the publication. A copy of the timeline of the development of an honor code system (p. 57 of the Resource Handbook):

### **UPDATE! May 2014**

*A Handbook for Developing and Sustaining Honor Systems, 2nd ed.*, John Roberts, Ph.D., Portland, Oregon: CSEE, 2014

Thoroughly re-researched and rewritten, this new edition of a standard guide to pre-collegiate honor systems is greatly improved. The bar was already set high: ICAI called the last iteration "a wonderful resource handbook" ([http://www.academicintegrity.org/ica/assets/development\\_stages\\_timeline.pdf](http://www.academicintegrity.org/ica/assets/development_stages_timeline.pdf))

The first chapter embeds honor codes in a philosophical and historical context and points to the value of honor systems for turning schools into ethical communities; the remainder of the book is comprehensively pragmatic. Discrete chapters examine honor codes, honor councils, case management, honor education programs, and a detailed map for developing or revitalizing a code. Included is a sampling of codes from a variety of schools and a resource list, as well as appendices providing sample documents and forms. The author, a former honor council faculty advisor, has been a workshop presenter and school consultant for nearly a decade and a half with the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education. CSEE is an educational non-profit that has been helping schools build integrity since 1898. For more information, see <http://csee.org/products/66>.

- I. INITIATION:** One to two month process. Crisis and/or grassroots movement brings the need for an honor code into focus.
- II. STEERING COMMITTEE:** One to two month process. The committee is formed either through administrative or grassroots leadership, but with administrative recognition. The committee discusses the potential of an honor code and gets approval from the administration to forge a process.
- III. OPEN FORUM:** One-day event. The school discusses the idea of having an honor code in an all-school open forum.
- IV. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:** No later than four weeks after the open forum. Two-day convention in which broad ideas of honor code are developed.
- V. DRAFTING PROCESS:** Two and a half month process. A drafting committee meets and develops a formal honor constitution.
- VI. APPROVAL AND INSTALLATION:** No later than a month after the constitution has been formally submitted by the drafting committee to the administration and the rest of the school community.
- VII. IMPLEMENTATION:** Formal implementation of the code at the beginning of the next school year.

This publication is available by contacting CSEE (Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education at 1-800-298-4599 or at <http://www.csee.org/products/66>).