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When discussing the topic of

ethics and gifts from business partners and other interested parties, a former journalism professor told us that "if you can't eat it, drink it, or smoke it in one sitting, then don't take it!"

If ethics in the workplace were truly that easy to manage, we'd see far fewer scandals and headlines related to poor decisions and bad judgment, on up to pure greed and out-and-out thievery in so many levels of our professional world. The demands and expectations are many, and the world is much more complex.

The areas of gray increase, however, especially as the lines blur between in-house and contract crews; conflicting federal, state, and institutional purchasing guidelines; increased role of suppliers and manufacturers in the spec-writing or decision-making process; and sometimes close friendships between staff and business partners.

In this issue we tackle the subject of ethics and accountability. APPA's Executive Vice President Lander Medlin provides a valuable introduction in clear-cut terms on the ethics in the workplace. She teaches the topic at the twice-yearly Institute for Facilities Management, and her chapter on Managing Ethically will be published later this year in the APPA Body of Knowledge (BOK). This is a must-read feature.

Darcy Loy, of Illinois State University, discusses the sometimes uncomfortable topic of accountability and describes ways in which the individual, the department, and the institution can identify their roles and responsibilities and meet the expectations toward a common goal.

We also include a case study from New Mexico State University that describes some past practices and processes that were detrimental to the institution,

and how the university has addressed the issues and improved upon its accountability to their stakeholders.

Finally, we are happy to include in this issue Part 1 of the 2009 Thought Leaders report, which focuses on environmental sustainability and energy efficiency. It is a more specialized topic than we have done in the Thought Leaders Series, but its critical issues couldn't be more current. Part 2 will appear in the July/August issue, and you can download a complimentary copy of the full report by visiting www.appa.org/tools/measures/tls.cfm. Many thanks to Haley & Aldrich for primary sponsorship of the 2009 Thought Leaders Symposium, with additional assistance from Delta Controls.

We look forward to seeing you at the APPA 2010 conference, July 14-16 in Boston. ☺

Coming in July/August 2010

- Introducing Two New APPA Fellows
- Whole Building Design Objectives for Campus Safety & Security
- Things to Think About When Preparing to Retire
- Rightsizing HVAC Systems to Reduce Capital Costs & Save Energy
- 2009 Thought Leaders Report, Part 2