

NOTRE DAME ETHICS INITIATIVE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR ONE *(academic year 2023–24)*

The University-wide Ethics Initiative will establish Notre Dame as a premier global destination for the study of ethics, offering superb training for future generations of ethicists and moral leaders, a platform for engagement of the Catholic moral tradition with other modes of inquiry, and an opportunity to forge insights into some of the most significant ethical issues of our time.

“The Ethics Initiative has had a phenomenal launch year. Buoyed by the generous benefaction that established the new Jenkins Center for Virtue Ethics, the continued support of IBM’s investment in the ND–IBM Technology Ethics Lab, and an infusion of grant funding from the John Templeton Foundation, the Lilly Endowment Inc., and the National Science Foundation, we’ve got tremendous momentum as we pursue our goal of making Notre Dame the premier global destination for the study of ethics.”



Meghan Sullivan

Director, Ethics Initiative; Director, Institute for Ethics and the Common Good; Wilsey Family College Professor of Philosophy

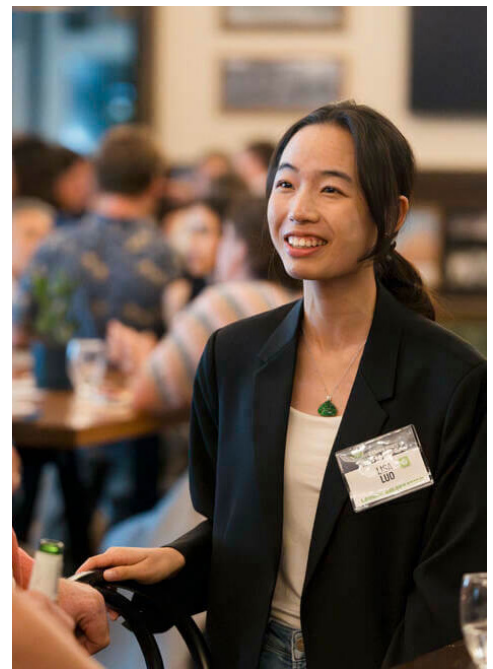
LAUNCHING THE INSTITUTE FOR ETHICS AND THE COMMON GOOD

The new institute, a transformation and expansion of the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, marked the achievement of a major goal for the Initiative’s first year. **The Institute for Ethics and the Common Good** facilitates interdisciplinary research in foundational and applied ethics, coordinates projects that cross departments and units, and supports ethics-related education and public engagement efforts.

An ambitious new strategic plan will guide the institute’s work over the next five years.

FOUNDING THE JENKINS CENTER FOR VIRTUE ETHICS

The new **Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Center for Virtue Ethics** in the Institute for Ethics and the Common Good supports preeminent scholars whose research advances human flourishing in both moral and spiritual contexts, facilitates the development of undergraduate courses exploring topics such as justice and the common good, and creates programming to deepen the ethical formation of Notre Dame students and faculty. It will also play a transformative role in public discourse, drawing citizens into meaningful dialogue informed by virtue ethics — one of the most powerful and enduring contributions of the Catholic philosophical tradition.



INSTITUTE FOR
**Ethics and the
Common Good**



ADVANCING ETHICS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Ethics Initiative made tremendous strides in building ethics research and education programming across the University, including winning several large grants to support its work. Highlights include:

Awarding nearly \$1M in research grants through the **IBM-Tech Ethics Lab**, supporting 17 teams of Notre Dame faculty and international experts studying the ethical implications of AI technologies like ChatGPT.

Developing a hiring plan with the Department of Philosophy and implementing the first set of senior faculty searches and postdoctoral fellowship searches.

Supporting **10 faculty research fellows** who completed 4 book manuscripts, published 14 articles during their fellowship year, and developed 2 new signature courses for Notre Dame students.

Advancing the innovative work of **5 Notre Dame doctoral students** through the Wilsey Distinguished Graduate Fellowship program.

Launching a 3-year project to develop **18 transformational undergraduate ethics courses** at Notre Dame and premier institutions across the country with support from a \$3M grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Supporting 10 undergraduate research fellows and successfully securing a **\$500,000 Lilly Endowment** grant to grow the undergraduate research fellowship in ethics.

PUBLIC AND CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

In advancing the University as a premier destination for convenings and dialogue about ethics, the Ethics Initiative:

Led 260+ campus and community engagements

in its first year, meeting with faculty, staff, and students across the University and beyond.

Organized the **Zahm Retreat**

an opportunity for 15 leaders from across the University to think deeply together about Catholic social teaching and ethical issues around the use of AI in higher education.

Hosted 35 of the country's top women graduate students in philosophy

at the **Athena in Action Conference**, bringing them together with 13 women faculty mentors for research and networking conversations.

