The Forum for Ethics in the Workplace brings together local business professionals and university scholars to provide for study, reflection, and public dialogue about ethical issues in various corporate settings.

Employing a new format that includes a video component, the Forum sponsored four events in its quarterly “ethics breakfast series”:

- “Work Shouldn’t Hurt” addressed the problem of workplace bullying. Following video clips about the issue, Atty. JEFFREY STEWART, the legislative director for the Society of Human Resource Management in the Lehigh Valley, led the 72-person audience in a discussion of legislation being proposed as a response to the problem.

- “Insightful or Intimidating?” was the question raised in relation to the use of performance appraisals. Following a video interview with the author of the book, GARY DOLOGITE, president of the Society of Human Resource Management in the Lehigh Valley, led the 55-person audience in a discussion of the ethics of this annual employment practice.

- “Is Your Boss Spying on You?” was a question whose opposite answers were offered to the 66-person audience by LEWIS MALTBY, founder of the National Workrights Institute, and NANCY CONRAD, chair of the labor and employment practice group at White & Williams, LLP.

- “Trustworthiness” was the concluding topic in this year’s series. R. SCOTT SMITH, Chairman of Fulton Financial Corporation, and GERALD NAU, CEO of Lafayette Ambassador Bank, led a discussion of the ethics of good business relations among the 71-person audience. These executives lead the only Lehigh Valley business named to the prestigious Forbes list in 2010.

In addition to the breakfast series, the Forum hosted a special presentation on “The Global Business of Politics” by IAN BREMMER, president of Eurasia Group. The presentation before a 50-person audience was sponsored by Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney.

The Forum also continued its collaboration with the Fleming Institute for Business Ethics at DSU. Several members of the board of directors again served as judges for the annual ethics bowl competition among business students at local colleges and universities.

And new this year, the Forum has introduced a competitive process to celebrate ethics in the workplace. To be presented annually at its breakfast meeting in September (beginning in 2011), the Societas Award will be granted to two companies in Eastern PA (one large, one small) that demonstrate strong ethical practices in terms of financial operations, compliance with the law, social responsibility, and personal accountability of both management and employees.