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## **Coalition to highlight professional integrity launches May 20; invites stories and ideas from public**

Washington, May 20 -- A coalition of 19 national and global organizations will announce the formation of Professionals for the Public Interest (PftPI) at a press conference at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 20, in the First Amendment Lounge (13th floor) of the National Press Club. The organizations include professional associations and unions representing professionals in science, engineering, health, the arts, and human services.

Professionals across a range of government and private enterprise positions are experiencing pressures and challenges to the integrity of their work. PftPI will engage those professionals, the public, and policymakers in discussing ways to defend against those external pressures, said Paul E. Almeida, President of the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO. He termed the event a launch of the coalition and a "national invitation to professionals to tell their stories and share their ideas about integrity at work."

"With his March 9 memorandum on scientific integrity, President Obama has taken a significant step in defending professional integrity in the scientific community," said Glenn Ruskin of the American Chemical Society. Ruskin said the ACS will work within the coalition to support improving policymakers' access to scientific information, proper unbiased use of scientific information in policymaking and political discussion, and freedom of scientific exchange.

Almeida and Ruskin will moderate the event. Other speakers include Randi Weingarten, American Federation of Teachers; Ann Converso, United American Nurses; Mary Ghikas, American Library Association; and Mark Frankel, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In addition to the press conference, PftPI is launching its website ([www.PftPI.org](http://www.PftPI.org)) to allow professionals to share ideas and experiences related to professional integrity and its connection to the public interest. The stories will be entered into a contest and several will be highlighted on Labor Day 2009 on the website. The site also highlights the members of the coalition and their statements on professional integrity.

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