BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS *of* **AMERICA**
Giving Purpose to Potential

Ethics and Professionalism

(540)

REGIONAL 2025

PRELIMINARY

TOTAL POINTS _____ (100 points)

Preparation Time: 20 minutes

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

Failure to adhere to any of the following rules will result in disqualification:

1. Contestants must hand in this test booklet and all printouts if any.
2. No equipment, supplies, or materials other than those specified for this event are allowed in the testing area. No previous BPA tests and/or sample tests (handwritten, photocopied, or keyed) are allowed in the testing area.
3. Electronic devices will be monitored according to ACT standards.

DESCRIPTION:

Explore the application of ethical frameworks to various aspects used in business today.

REGIONAL PRELIMINARY SCENARIO:

Alex is a senior software engineer at Digital Solutions. Recently, Alex has been working on a major project for a high-profile client, Secure Data, to develop a new cybersecurity software suite.

During the development phase, Alex discovers that a fellow team member, Chris, has been cutting corners in the coding process to meet tight deadlines. Chris's shortcuts involve bypassing certain security protocols, which could leave the software vulnerable to cyberattacks. When Alex confronts Chris, Chris argues that they can patch these vulnerabilities in a later update, once the project is delivered and the immediate pressure is off, which will increase the fees paid to Digital Solutions in the long run.

Alex is deeply concerned about the potential risks and feels that delivering insecure software goes against the core values of Digital Solutions. However, reporting Chris's actions might delay the project and lead to significant financial penalties for missing the deadline. Additionally, Chris is a close friend and has been a mentor to Alex, making the decision even more difficult.

What should Alex do?

A contestant will be DISQUALIFIED for violations of the Copyright and Fair Use Guidelines.

<u>Contestants who do not submit an entry that follows this topic will be disqualified.</u>