Human Resources

Survey shows execs believe ethical conduct gets no recognition

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Nearly half of human-resources professionals surveyed believe ethical conduct is not rewarded in businesses today, according to a report by the Society of Human Resource Management and the Ethics Resource Center.

The 2003 Business Ethics Survey, a follow-up to a 1997 survey, examined the role HR professionals played in maintaining a company's ethical standards, the incidence of unethical behavior and key factors encouraging employees to act ethically. The survey of 426 respondents yielded a 22 percent response rate.

Over the past five years, HR professionals said they have felt more pressure to compromise their companies' ethics standards. However, they also indicated they personally observed fewer actions of misconduct in the workplace.