What is a COE Ombudsperson?

The COE Staff ombudsperson is an informal, neutral, and confidential resource for COE staff members who have concerns about aspects of professional relationships and/or work environment. To be effective, the COE ombudsperson must have good listening skills and be viewed as trustworthy. To create trust, the COE ombudsperson is bound by principles of neutrality and confidentiality.

Use of the COE ombudsperson is voluntary and is not a replacement or substitute for formal grievance, investigative, and appeal processes provided by the University. Conversations with an ombudsperson are considered “off the record.” The ombudsperson provides advice, makes staff aware of University resources, and makes referrals. S/he does not file formal complaints or keep records of visits, although s/he may keep informal notes of conversations for his/her own use. The concerns or issues discussed remain in confidence unless otherwise required by University policies and procedures and/or legal requirements. The COE ombudsperson might communicate, in general and anonymous terms, with COESAC, the COE Dean, and/or the COE leadership team to improve the work environment for all staff.

The COE staff Ombudsperson is appointed by the Dean with input from COESAC, and the COE Leadership Team.

At the request of the COESAC Executive Committee the College of Education Dean established the Ombudsperson resource in an attempt to address issues among staff and offer an opportunity to speak freely and without prejudice to someone within the college. The Ombudsperson is a thinking partner who can help you come up with options for the issues you are experiencing with your work environment and/or relationships.

Schedule an appointment

Dr. Dorothy Reed is the Assistant Dean for Engagement in the COE. She is located in 3226B Beering Hall. Dorothy has a cognate area in counseling for her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration. Dorothy has worked in higher education administration, both at Purdue and Michigan State University for over 25 years. In her various roles, she has dealt with situations that needed mediation and resolution that affected the staff and students. She is well versed in University policies and resources.

She can be reached at 494-5572. Her email is reed7@purdue.edu

Other Resources:

Resources and Information (http://www.purdue.edu/hr/)

Employee Assistance Program (http://www.purdue.edu/hr/LeadingEdition/LEdi_105_EAP.html)