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I did my graduate work at the College of William and Mary and my first job was at the University of Georgia, Counseling and Testing Center from 1974-1980. I then accepted a position at the University of Delaware where I spent 37 years. I worked as a counseling psychologist and clinical coordinator for 27 years. My passion was doing individual therapy and administratively seeking ways to improve the delivery of service for our clients. In 2007, the former director, John Bishop moved into a full-time faculty member position. I then became the director for 10 years retiring in September 2017.

My first challenge as director was to establish my own identity as a director. I was following an icon (I believe) in the field. I had worked under a very good, well know, respected director who had been director at UD for about 40 years. I talked with several other new directors who similarly had followed long time well established directors and the sharing of the process was helpful. The counseling center staff was also very supportive of me becoming the director and they were not shy in letting me know of their support of me. I continued to own my identity as a clinician which was appreciated by staff.

By word and action, I wanted to establish a culture within the center of self-care, support for each other including support staff, and an expectation of high-quality delivery of service. Time was spent processing the demands of the work and how best to respond. We had a long time, well-loved staff member fighting cancer and dying 6-7 years after I became the director. Attending to the feelings of staff individually and in group was important to me.

I believe I would be a trusted listener for a new director and helping him/her work through the role they see a director playing. I know that when I became director I would call a seasoned director just to run an issue or concern by them to get their input. I also believe it is very important to be the voice of the cc in the larger University environment and the importance of establishing alliances with upper-level administrators formally and informally.