

**Bentley announces *the second Reach Out initiative: Reach Out to share our interests and hobbies***

As the University Ombudsperson, I am pleased to announce the second *Reach Out* initiative: ***Reach Out to share our interests and hobbies.***

It is my experience that we may be more willing to address a conflict or may be more open to express our concern with someone who shares a similar interest.

You may recall the focus on creating a positive organizational culture launched by President Davis-Blake this past October. *Reach Out to Share* our interests aligns with the belief that knowing something more about our colleagues will help us better understand them. This may result in greater trust, collaboration, productivity and satisfaction.

*“For the longest time, I was annoyed at a colleague who always expressed the need to quantify all success metrics, something that I used to see as delaying progress with our projects. I am now glad I learned of his passion to teach children math. It made me less impatient with him and more accepting of his desire to quantify everything!”* Anonymous former colleague.

If you want to share your hobbies and interests, and learn of others’ hobbies and interests, I hope you will consider answering a brief questionnaire via [this link](#) by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Alex Lewin](#) or to [me](#) and we will be happy to help.

All my best,  
Eliane Markoff  
University Ombuds

*The University Ombuds is a confidential, neutral and informal resource to enable us to resolve conflict and address challenging situations in an effective and respectful manner.*