

## PREVENTING FRAUD, WASTE OR ABUSE

Management at Columbia State is responsible for establishing and implementing systems and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse.

The basic elements of a proper control system include:

- Creating a culture of honesty and high ethics.
- Evaluating risks and implementing processes, procedures and controls to prevent, deter and detect fraud, waste and abuse.
- Developing an appropriate oversight process.

Management at all levels of Columbia State should review the information that is available from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in the document, *Management Antifraud Programs and Controls: Guidance to Help Prevent and Deter Fraud*, found as an exhibit in their Professional Auditing Standard AU 316 at this website:

<http://www.aicpa.org/Research/Standards/AuditAttest/DownloadableDocuments/AU-00316.pdf>

Internal Audit can provide assistance in reviewing risks, processes, procedures or controls or in providing internal control training at 931.540.2755.

## INVESTIGATIONS

Internal Audit has reporting responsibility to the Audit Committee of the Tennessee Board of Regents. This reporting relationship enables Internal Audit staff to independently and objectively review matters involving any level of administration.

When the Office of Internal Audit receives allegations of dishonesty or other irregularity by an employee, outside contractor or vendor, Internal Audit staff are required to conduct an investigation.

Supervisors should **not** attempt to conduct investigations nor alert suspected employees of an impending investigation.

The objectives include verifying the facts, maintaining objectivity and confidentiality, determining responsibility and recommending corrective actions to help ensure that similar actions do not occur in the future.

## TBR POLICY

Policy 4:01:05:50, *Preventing and Reporting Fraud, Waste or Abuse* at [www.tbr.edu](http://www.tbr.edu).

Columbia State Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The Director of Human Resources has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at 931.540.2521.

CoSCC AUD-01-07-16



## OFFICE OF INTERNAL AUDIT

# PREVENTING AND REPORTING FRAUD, WASTE OR ABUSE

**Tennessee Board of Regents  
The State University and  
Community College System  
of Tennessee**

**“Educating Tennessee”**

## REPORTING FRAUD, WASTE OR ABUSE

Columbia State is committed to the responsible stewardship of resources. State law requires all public institutions of higher education provide a means by which students, employees or others may report suspected or known improper or dishonest acts (*T.C.A.* § 49-14-103(a)). Whether you are part of departmental management, a faculty or staff member, a student or an interested citizen, we encourage you to report known or suspected fraud, waste or abuse by employees, outside contractors or vendors (*T.C.A.* § 8-50-116).

### ACTIONS TO REPORT

Activities such as the following, either known or suspected, should be reported:

- Theft or misappropriation of funds, supplies, property, or other institutional resources
- Forgery or alteration of documents
- Unauthorized alteration or manipulation of computer files
- Improper and wasteful activity
- Falsification of reports to management or external agencies
- Pursuit of a benefit or advantage in violation of TBR's conflicts of interest policy
- Authorization or receipt of compensation for hours not worked

### BE REASONABLY CERTAIN!

Before making allegations of fraud, waste or abuse, be reasonably certain of any claims. Such allegations could seriously and negatively impact the accused individual's life and adversely affect the working environment of the department.

*T.C.A.* § 39-16-502, False Reports, states that it is unlawful to make a false report if:

- The offense or incident reported did not occur;
- The person has no information relating to the offense or incident reported; or
- The information relating to the offense reported is false.

### PROTECTION UNDER STATE LAW

State law provides protection for individuals by prohibiting discrimination or retaliation of any kind against employees who report, in good faith, allegations of fraud, waste or abuse or for cooperating with auditors conducting an investigation. Internal Audit working papers, including allegations of fraud, waste or abuse and the individual reporting information to Internal Audit are confidential under *T.C.A.* § 10-7-504(a)(22), unless subject to court action requiring disclosure. If there is a separate legal obligation to investigate the complaint (e.g., complaints of illegal harassment or discrimination), anonymity or complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. *T.C.A.* § 49-14-103(b) directs that a person who knowingly and willingly retaliates or takes adverse action of any kind against any person for reporting alleged wrongdoing pursuant to the provisions of this part commits a Class A misdemeanor.

### REPORTING OPTIONS

Several options are available to employees, students and others for reporting known or suspected fraud, waste or abuse.

You may report your concerns:

- Supervisor or official
  - Your supervisor or an institution official
- Columbia State's Office of Internal Audit
  - Phone: 931.540.2755
  - Online: [www.ColumbiaState.edu/Reporting](http://www.ColumbiaState.edu/Reporting)
  - Reporting Hotline: 931.540.2785
- TBR Office of System-wide Internal Audit
  - Phone: 615.366.4441
  - Email: [reportfraud@tbr.edu](mailto:reportfraud@tbr.edu)
  - Online: <http://tbr.edu/audit/fraud-waste-or-abuse-reporting-form>
- Tennessee Comptroller's Hotline for Fraud, Waste or Abuse
  - Phone: 1.800.232.5454
  - Online: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline>

If you are a supervisor, department head or campus official and you receive a report of fraud, waste or abuse, do not investigate but contact Internal Audit at 931.540.2755 for