

## Statement on Campus Sexual Assault Prevention and Response February 2018

Michigan's public universities are addressing the problem of sexual violence on our campuses. They continue to explore ways of educating members of their campus communities in an effort to prevent incidences of sexual assault from occurring, and in instances when they do occur, to respond promptly and appropriately. Our universities—administration, faculty, and staff—work diligently to provide campuses which are safe places to learn, live and work.

At Michigan's public universities:

- Students, faculty, staff and visitors are expected to refrain from all forms of sexual violence, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence and stalking, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.
- University officials are educating employees and students about sexual violence prevention, a critical step in protecting the university community from this behavior.
- University officials are informing employees and students about sexual violence policies, intervention and response protocols, and resources for support.
- Any student who is a member of the campus community who is harmed by sexual violence receives support, resources, and assistance, including the availability of appropriate interim measures; they are also informed about both criminal and university administrative options.
- Individuals who are identified by the institution as responsible employees consistent with federal guidance who learn of suspected sexual violence must report it to designated campus offices for review, and timely investigation and adjudication, as appropriate, will ensue.
- Campus officials responsible for investigations involving sexual assault collaborate with appropriate law enforcement officials to provide effective coordination when addressing sexual violence complaints.

Michigan's public universities are actively researching, innovating, and developing successful approaches to prevent and respond to sexual assaults. We are prepared to work with any entity that provides successful, proven approaches to prevent and respond to this serious criminal and public health problem.

### **Affirmation of Campus Sexual Assault Prevention and Accountability**

The state universities of Michigan and the Michigan Association of State Universities have been actively engaged in activities to prevent sexual assault on Michigan's public university campuses.

### **Campus Communications Affirming Institutional Sexual Assault Prevention**

In tandem with the conviction of Larry Nassar, many university presidents sent a communication to their campus communities reaffirming institutional commitment to campus sexual assault prevention and response, and articulating the full slate of campus resources for survivors of sexual assault.

### **Provision of Extensive Campus Training on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response**

On an ongoing basis, Michigan's public universities offer extensive sexual assault prevention and response training to all stakeholders on campus. In January 2018, each university compiled a summary of its sexual assault prevention and response training for the university's Title IX coordinator, campus public safety personnel, and any other campus personnel charged with responding to on-campus incidents. These summaries were provided to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on higher education, senate and house fiscal agencies, and state budget director.

### **Reporting Sexual Misconduct Incidences on Campus**

Each university discloses annually all incidences of sexual misconduct on campus to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on higher education, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director. This disclosure is part of the federally-required Clery Act report and is also sent to the federal government and is publicly viewable for full transparency. These reports are viewable via each university's website; on each institution's homepage, click the round blue and green State of Michigan transparency reporting icon.

## **Collaboration to Promote Campus Sexual Assault Prevention**

### **Michigan State Police Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program**

For the past three years, Michigan's public universities have partnered with the state of Michigan on a [Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program](#). The program was first promoted by First Lady Sue Snyder, supported by the legislature, and is now coordinated by the Michigan State Police. The grant program has helped the public universities fund new and innovative sexual assault prevention initiatives. Near-term, state grants will be issued in support of innovative bystander intervention programs.

### **Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Summit**

Also for the past three years, the state universities have partnered with First Lady Sue Snyder on an annual [Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Summit](#). The universities have provided funding and programming support and drove very large participation in the summit. The "*Let's End Campus Sexual Assault*" conferences have brought together hundreds of university officials, students, law enforcement officers, legislators, and other stakeholders for discussions on how we can inform students, empower survivors and bystanders, and prevent sexual assault on campuses. Summit goals include: changing the culture surrounding sexual assault; making Michigan a leader in ending sexual assault among the college-aged population; and encouraging collaboration and bipartisan efforts to identify best practices in the fight against sexual assault.

### **Creation of State University Title IX Directors Committee**

As it is commonly referred to, "Title IX" is a section of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972. It reads: *No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.* Enforcement actions under Title IX were primarily sex-based discrimination cases, especially in sports and hiring, until recently focusing more upon sexual assault and harassment accusations, per directives from the U.S. Department of Education. Each Michigan public university has a campus professional charged with overseeing the institution's compliance with the law, commonly referred to as the Title IX Coordinator. The Michigan public university Title IX Coordinators meet on a regular basis as a standing committee of the Michigan Association of State Universities. The group shares best practices on campus sexual assault prevention and adjudication, discusses accountability and transparency measures, and coordinates professional development activities. The [MASU Title IX Coordinators Committee](#) is currently exploring professional development training opportunities with the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Board. The Committee served as a consultative source in the production of a booklet for victims of campus sexual assault prevention, titled *A Handbook for Campus Sexual Assault Survivors, Friends, and Family*, produced as part of First Lady Sue Snyder's campaign to end sexual assault on campus.