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- i. “Officials with Authority” Defined and Duties. An official with authority” is the institution’s Title IX Coordinator or any official of the institution who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the institution, including the President, Vice Presidents, Provost, Vice Provosts, Human Resources Director, and those designated by the President. When a complainant or other person reports an incident of unlawful discrimination or harassment to an official with authority, they have the right to expect the institution to take prompt and appropriate steps to investigate what happened and to resolve the matter promptly and equitably.

An official with authority must report to the Title IX Coordinator all relevant details about the alleged unlawful discrimination or harassment shared by the reporting individual and that the institution will need to determine what happened – including the name(s) of the complainant, respondent(s) and any witnesses, and any other relevant facts, including the date, time and specific location of the alleged incident. To the extent possible, information reported to an official with authority will be shared only with people responsible for handling the institution’s response to the report. An official with authority should not share information with law enforcement without the complainant’s consent or unless the complainant has also reported the incident to law enforcement.

- ii. Requesting Confidentiality From the Institution: How the Institution Will Weigh the Request and Respond.
- a. Request for Confidentiality. If a complainant discloses an incident to an official with authority but wishes to maintain confidentiality or requests that no investigation into a particular incident be conducted or disciplinary action taken, the institution will weigh that request against the institution’s obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for everyone, including the complainant, after the official with authority reports the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. If the institution honors the request for confidentiality, a complainant will be informed that the institution’s ability to investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action against the respondent may be limited. There are times when, in order to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all, the institution may not be able to honor a complainant’s request for confidentiality. The institution shall designate an individual to evaluate requests for confidentiality made by a complainant.
- b. Factors to Be Considered. When weighing a complainant’s request for confidentiality or a complainant’s request that no investigation or discipline be pursued, the institution will consider a range of factors, including the following:
- i) The increased risk that the identified respondent will commit additional acts of violence, discrimination or harassment, such as:
- whether there have been other misconduct, violence, discrimination or harassment complaints about the same respondent;
  - whether the respondent has a history of arrests or other records indicating a history of violence, discrimination or harassment;

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<sup>2</sup> Note: Campus Security Authorities, who are designated by the institutions in accordance with Clery Act requirements, have an independent responsibility to report sexual and other crimes (which may be reported anonymously) to campus police.



the reported sexual violence occurred; increasing education and prevention efforts, including to targeted population groups; conducting climate assessments/complainant surveys; and/or revisiting its policies and practices.

Issuance of Timely Warning: If the institution determines that any individual involved in the matter poses a serious and immediate threat to the institution community, police or security services may be called upon to issue a timely warning to the community. Any such warning will not include any information that identifies the complainant.

- d. Reports to Other NSHE Institutions. If an official with authority receives a complaint about unlawful discrimination or harassment that has occurred at another NSHE institution or to a student or employee of another NSHE institution, the official with authority shall report the information to the institution's Title IX Coordinator, who shall provide the information to the Title IX Coordinator at the other NSHE institution.
- e. Public Awareness Events – Not Notice to the Institution. Public awareness events such as “Take Back the Night,” the Clothesline Project, candlelight vigils, protests, “survivor speak outs” or other forums in which individuals disclose incidents of unlawful discrimination or harassment, are not considered notice to the institution of unlawful discrimination or harassment for purposes of triggering the institution's obligation to investigate any particular incident(s). Such events may, however, inform the need for institution-wide education and prevention efforts, and the Institution will provide information about individuals' rights at these events.
- f. ***Disclosures in written assignments – Not Notice to the Institution. If a student makes a disclosure of an incident of unlawful discrimination or harassment in a written assignment, such disclosure is not considered notice to the institution of unlawful discrimination or harassment for purposes of triggering the institution's obligation to investigate any particular incident(s).***

## 6. Retaliation

Retaliation against an individual who in good faith complains of unlawful discrimination or harassment or provides information in an investigation about behavior that may violate this policy is against the law, will not be tolerated, and may be grounds for discipline. Retaliation in violation of this policy may result in discipline up to and including termination and/or expulsion. Any employee or student bringing an unlawful discrimination or harassment complaint or assisting in the investigation of such a complaint will not be adversely affected in terms and conditions of employment and/or academic standing, nor discriminated against, terminated, or expelled because of the complaint. Intentionally providing false information is also grounds for discipline.

“Retaliation” may include, but is not limited to, such conduct as:

- the denial of adequate personnel to perform duties;
- frequent replacement of members of the staff;
- frequent and undesirable changes in the location of an office;
- the refusal to assign meaningful work;
- unwarranted disciplinary action;
- unfair work performance evaluations;
- a reduction in pay;
- the denial of a promotion;













Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met when the only official of the institution with actual knowledge is the respondent. The mere ability or obligation to report sexual harassment or to inform an individual about how to report sexual harassment, or having been trained to do so, does not qualify an individual as one who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the institution.

- h. "Institution" means any and all of NSHE's eight (8) institutions, including the College of Southern Nevada; the Desert Research Institute; Great Basin College; Nevada State College; Truckee Meadows Community College; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; the University of Nevada, Reno; and Western Nevada College, and NSHE's System Administration offices.
- i. "Consent" means an affirmative, clear, unambiguous, knowing, informed, and voluntary agreement between all participants to engage in sexual activity.
  - Consent is active, not passive. Silence or lack of resistance cannot be interpreted as consent.
  - Seeking and having consent accepted is the responsibility of the person(s) initiating each specific sexual act regardless of whether the person initiating the act is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
  - The existence of a dating relationship or past sexual relations between the participants does not constitute consent to any other sexual act.
  - Affirmative consent must be ongoing throughout the sexual activity and may be withdrawn at any time. When consent is withdrawn or cannot be given, sexual activity must stop.
  - Consent cannot be given when it is the result of any coercion, intimidation, force, deception, or threat of harm.
  - Consent cannot be given when a person is incapacitated. Incapacitation occurs when an individual lacks the ability to fully, knowingly choose to participate in sexual activity. Incapacitation includes: impairment due to drugs or alcohol (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary); inability to communicate due to a mental or physical condition; the lack of consciousness or being asleep; being involuntarily restrained; if any of the parties are under the age of 16; or if an individual otherwise cannot consent.
  - The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

### 3. Response to Sexual Harassment

An institution with actual knowledge of sexual harassment allegations in an education program or activity of the institution, as all defined in Subsection 2, against a person in the United States must respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. An institution is "deliberately indifferent" only if its response to sexual harassment allegations is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

An institution's response must treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures as defined in Subsection f of Subsection 2 to all parties, and by following a complaint process that complies with Subsection 5 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures as defined in Subsection f of Subsection 2 against a respondent.

***An institution shall provide this policy which addresses supportive measures to both complainants and respondents.***

The institution's Title IX Coordinator must promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures as defined in Subsection f of Subsection 2, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint. An institution's treatment of a complainant or a respondent in response to a formal complaint of sexual harassment may constitute discrimination on the basis of sex under Title IX.

Depending on the specific nature of the problem, supportive measures and remedies may include, but are not limited to:

**For Students:**

- a. Issuing a ***mutual*** no-contact directive(s);
- b. Providing an [effective] escort to ensure safe movement between classes and activities;
- c. Not sharing classes or extracurricular activities;
- d. Moving to a different residence hall;
- e. Providing written information regarding institution and community services including but not limited to medical, counseling and academic support services, such as tutoring;
- f. Providing extra time to complete or re-take a class or withdraw from a class without an academic or financial penalty;
- g. ***Taking a leave of absence;***
- h. Restricting to online classes;
- i. Providing information regarding campus transportation options;
- j. Reviewing any disciplinary actions taken against the complainant or the respondent to see if there is a connection between the sexual misconduct and the misconduct that may have resulted in the complainant or the respondent being disciplined<sup>3</sup>; and
- k. Requiring the parties to report any violations of these restrictions.

**For Employees:**

- a. Providing an [effective] escort to ensure safe movement between work area and/or parking lots/other campus locations;
- b. Issuing a ***mutual*** no-contact directive(s);
- c. Placement on ***leave***; [~~paid leave (not sick or annual leave)~~];
- d. [~~Placement on administrative leave-~~]; Transfer to a different area/department or shift in order to eliminate or reduce further business/social contact;
- e. Providing information regarding campus transportation options;

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<sup>3</sup> For example, if one party was disciplined for skipping a class in which the other party was enrolled, the institution should review the incident to determine if class was skipped to avoid contact with the other party.

- f. Instructions to stop the conduct;
- g. Providing information regarding institution and community services including medical, counseling and Employee Assistance Program;
- h. Reassignment of duties;
- i. Changing the supervisory authority; and
- j. Directing the parties to report any violations of these restrictions.

All institution administrators, academic and administrative faculty, and staff are responsible for carrying out the supportive measures and remedies.

Supportive measures and remedies may include restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by the institution, criminal, civil or tribal courts. Supportive measures and remedies will be confidential to the extent that such confidentiality will not impair the effectiveness of such measures or remedies.

Remedies may also include review and revision of institution sexual misconduct policies, increased monitoring, supervision or security at locations where incidents have been reported; and increased and/or targeted education and prevention efforts.

Any supportive measures or remedies shall be monitored by the Title IX Coordinator throughout the entire process to assess whether the supportive measures or remedies meet the goals of preventing [ongoing] harassment or discrimination, protecting the safety of the parties, restoring access to the institution's education programs and activities, and preventing retaliatory conduct.

In responding to allegations of sexual harassment, an institution shall not restrict rights protected under the U.S. Constitution, including the First Amendment, Fifth Amendment, and Fourteenth Amendment.

#### 4. Response to a Formal Complaint

- a. In response to a formal complaint, an institution must investigate the allegations contained therein and follow a complaint process that complies with Subsection 5. With or without a formal complaint, an institution must comply with Subsection 3.
- b. Nothing in this Subsection precludes an institution from removing a respondent from the institution's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the institution undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal, and provides the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- c. Nothing in this Subsection precludes an institution from placing a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a complaint process that complies with Subsection 5. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- d. An institution may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant

against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where a complaint process involves more than one complainant or more than one respondent, references in this Section to the singular “party,” “complainant,” or “respondent” include the plural, as applicable.

5. General complaint process requirements. Institutions shall:
  - a. Permit any person to report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person’s verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the Title IX Coordinator;
  - b. Promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment;
  - c. Treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent, and by following a complaint process that complies with this Section before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures as defined in Subsection f of Subsection 2 against a respondent. Remedies must be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the institution’s education program or activity. Such remedies may include the same individualized services described in Subsection f of Subsection 2 as “supportive measures”; however, remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the respondent;
  - d. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person’s status as a complainant, respondent, or witness;
  - e. Ensure that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, hearing officer, and any person designated by an institution to facilitate an informal resolution process, does not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent;
  - f. Ensure that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, hearing officer, and any person designated by an institution to facilitate an informal resolution process receive training on the definition of sexual harassment in Subsection 2, the scope of the institution’s education program or activity, how to conduct an investigation and complaint process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable, and how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias;
  - g. Ensure, in coordination with the NSHE Chief General Counsel, that hearing officers receive training on any technology to be used at a live hearing and on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant’s sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, as set forth in Subsection d of Subsection 8;
  - h. Ensure that investigators receive training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence, as set forth in Subsection d of Subsection 8;

- i. Ensure that any materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, hearing officers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process, do not rely on sex stereotypes;
  - j. Include a presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the complaint process;
  - k. Establish a reasonably prompt time frame for conclusion of the complaint process, including reasonably prompt time frames for filing and resolving appeals and informal resolution processes if the institution offers informal resolution processes, and a process that allows for the temporary delay of the complaint process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. The institution must establish a reasonably prompt time frame that complies with the procedures outlined in Chapter 284 of the *Nevada Administrative Code* for classified employees, Chapter 289 of the *Nevada Administrative Code* for law enforcement, Chapter 6 of the NSHE Code for professional employees, [~~and~~] Chapter 10 of the NSHE Code or applicable code of conduct for students, **or any associated collective bargaining agreement**. Institutions may establish different time frames for different types of cases (e.g., sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, etc.);
  - l. Describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies or list the possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies that the institution may implement following any determination of responsibility;
  - m. State that the standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard, and must apply the same standard of evidence for formal complaints against students as for formal complaints against employees, including faculty, and must apply the same standard of evidence to all formal complaints of sexual harassment. "Preponderance of the evidence" means the evidence establishes that it is more likely than not that the prohibited conduct occurred;
  - n. Include the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal a written determination;
  - o. Describe the range of supportive measures available to complainants and respondents;
  - p. Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege; and
  - q. Require any party to assert that the Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or hearing officer(s) has a conflict of interest or bias against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent at the time the party knew or should have known of such conflict of interest or bias.
6. Complaint Procedures
- a. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, an institution must provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:
    - i. Notice of the institution's complaint process that complies with this Section, including any informal resolution process; and

















