



All photos by Allison Shelley/Complete College Photo Library

# Task Force on Power- Based Violence at Institutions of Higher Education

2025

Prepared by the  
Nevada System of  
Higher Education



## About the Task Force

The Task Force on Power-Based Violence at Institutions of Higher Education (Task Force) was established by the Nevada Legislature through the signing of [Assembly Bill 245](#) (Chapter 504, *Statutes of Nevada 2023*). The Task Force is charged with reviewing the results of any power-based violence climate survey administered at any Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) institution, examining current procedures and protocols for preventing, intervening in or responding to instances of power-based violence that may occur at institutions within the System, identifying possible gaps in the services that are available for victims of power-based violence at institutions within the System, examining the correlation between social groups, campus life and the incidence of power-based violence on the campus of each institution within the System, and providing recommendations to the Board of Regents on how to address power-based violence at NSHE institutions.

The Task Force is comprised of the NSHE Chancellor and fifteen members appointed by the Board of Regents, who represent NSHE Institutions, including various institutional units, students, victim advocates, and researchers. The Task Force meets quarterly and minutes, as well as meeting recordings, are publicly available on the [NSHE Power-Based Violence Task Force](#) webpage.

Task Force members as of the writing of this report are:

Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, Dean, School of Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Business, NSU (Chair)

Dr. Tabor Griswold, Program Director, Health Workforce Research, UNR (Vice Chair)

Matt McNair, Chancellor, NSHE

Lynda King, Senior Associate General Counsel, NSHE

Erin Frock, Counselor, TMCC

José Melendrez, Interim Vice President, UNLV

Michell Sposito, Director, Equal Employment & Title IX, UNLV

Luisa Bautista, Student, NSU

Dr. Kavita Batra, Assistant Professor, Medical Research Biostatistician, UNLV

Tara Marjerrison, Campus Victim Advocate, TMCC

Christina Hall, Interim Director, The Care Center, UNLV

Lindsey Wolterbeek, Undergraduate Student, UNR

Mr. Jordan Fischette, Assistant Director, Fraternity and Sorority Life, UNLV

Dr. Stefanie Coleman, Vice President of Student Affairs, NSU

There are two additional member slots that are pending appointments, one to replace a student who graduated in May 2025 and the second for a medical school professional from

UNLV or UNR. A nominee for each slot will be presented to the Board for possible appointment at the September 11-12, 2025, quarterly meeting.

## What is Power-Based Violence?

Power-based violence means any form of interpersonal violence intended to control, intimidate or harm another person through the assertion of power over the person, including without limitation: dating violence, domestic violence, family violence, gender-based violence; violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, stalking, and/or voyeurism (NRS 396.1285).

## Climate Survey

At its June 2023 quarterly meeting, the Board of Regents took action requiring each NSHE institution to administer a power-based violence (formerly sexual misconduct) climate survey during the 2023-2024 academic year. The Task Force administered the survey late in the Fall 2023 semester. Subsequently, at the Task Force's March 26, 2024, meeting, the research team who conducted the survey presented an overview of survey results. Finally, the survey results were presented to the Board during the June 2024 quarterly meeting. The [survey report](#), [task force presentation](#) and [Board presentation](#) are all publicly available on the NSHE website. In addition, [an overview](#) of the Task Force and the survey were provided to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education in June 2024.

According to the Task Force's recommendation, NSHE contracted with the Center for Surveys, Evaluation, and Statistics (CSES) and the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies (GSCJS) at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to administer the survey to assess sexual misconduct at all seven NSHE institutions enrolling students (DRI was not included). The survey was launched on December 1, 2023, closed on December 26, 2023, and was administered using the software Qualtrics. There were 5,497 responses with viable data. Generally, students at each institution reported positive perceptions of their campus leadership; UNR students reported the most concerns about campus leadership compared to students at UNLV, CSN, NSU, and TMCC. Most students reported only moderate perceptions of their campus leaders' abilities to protect their students, handle crises, and provide a good support system. At the same time, overall, reports of unwanted sexual experience perpetration and victimization were low.

## Findings of Task Force

Chief among the findings of the Task Force is the need to engage in further analysis of the 2023 Power-Based Violence Survey responses and to conduct a second climate survey during the current biennium. The continued work of the Task Force on data collection and analysis is expected to lead to improvements in climate, safety, and conduct at NSHE institutions.

Additional analysis of the 2023 survey results was performed in Fall 2024 by the original survey contractor and includes a [socio-demographics report](#) as well as focused reports on responses from [UNLV students](#), [UNR students](#), and [CSN students](#). For the three institutions with sufficient numbers of responses to support institution-based analyses, the data provided will help guide leaders more specifically in making improvements on their campuses.

Similarly, a subsequent systemwide climate survey will provide more data that can be used to support ongoing improvements at all seven institutions. Thanks to experience gained in the administration of the first climate survey, the Task Force is better prepared to determine and work toward optimal timing for a survey that will garner a higher response rate. In addition, a second survey will provide a foundation for the system and its institutions to follow changes in student responses over time, with the goal of tracking improvements and guiding future policies and practice.

## Recommendations

Task Force Chair Dr. Elizabeth Gunn presented two recommendations to the Board of Regents at its June 12-13, 2025, quarterly meeting:

- Incorporate the definition of power-based violence as defined in NRS 396.1285 into the Board's Policy Against Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment ([Title 4, Chapter 8](#), Section 14).
- Create and administer a second systemwide climate survey on power-based violence during the Fall 2026 semester to the extent funds are available, as determined by the Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, and for the Board to authorize the Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer to confirm whether funding is available to the Task Force Chair prior to the Task Force's next meeting. The survey would be administered by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Center for Research, Evaluation, and Assessment.

Both recommendations were approved by the Board. NSHE's Chief Human Resources Officer is currently developing a proposed policy revision in collaboration with the Title IX

Officers from each of the NSHE institutions. In addition, the Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer are in the process of identifying potential funding for a second climate survey to be administered systemwide in Fall 2026.