

SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP)

Campus Climate Survey Report

2017



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Executive Summary

In March 2017, Suffolk County Community College participated in the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) Campus Climate Survey. The survey was administered to students, faculty and staff. By SUNY policy this uniform survey ascertains faculty and staff awareness of policies and resources, and student experience with and knowledge of reporting and college adjudicatory processes for sexual harassment, including sexual violence and other related crimes.

Results indicated that faculty and staff are generally aware of the policies and laws, and resources. Over 86% agreed or strongly agreed that they know how to advise students where to get help if they were sexually assaulted; and over 69% agreed or strongly agreed that they understand what happens when a student reports sexual assault at the college.

There is an indication that more information, outreach, and communication is needed to provide resources and to faculty and staff. While a majority of respondents understood the Title IX Coordinator's role in receiving reports, coordinating responses, ensuring training, and providing reporting individuals with accommodations, 9% of the 490 respondents indicated they were unsure of the Title IX Coordinator's role.

58% of student respondents indicated that they were aware of policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault and 20% indicated that they were unaware of how to report sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking to the college. It is our commitment to ensure that we increase student's knowledge of avenues to report and who the Title IX Coordinator is.

The College's Title IX Coordinator, Cabinet members, and other administrators have reviewed the results. A committee comprised of the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy coordinators will communicate and meet with departments such as Mental Health Services, Student Health Services, Counseling, Campus Activities, Public Safety, and Academic Affairs to review specific results and to further detail recommendations based on the findings.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Christina Vargas, Chief Diversity Officer/Title IX Coordinator at vargasc@sunysuffolk.edu.

Background

The College has made a renewed commitment to addressing issues of sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. For example, there have been resources devoted to establishing a comprehensive Mental Health Services program, who are critical in providing confidential services and referrals. There has been comprehensive training to enhance Public Safety's response; media and educational campaigns devoted to Domestic Violence prevention and awareness; as well as face to face training provided to faculty, staff, counselors, and students by the Title IX Coordinator and deputy coordinators over the last several years. In addition, there has been the implementation of online training to educate on sexual violence prevention and these classes have been taken by over 2800 faculty and staff. Given this increase in activity, the College is interested in understanding areas of effectiveness and areas of need within the college community.

Suffolk County Community College administered the SVP climate survey during a three week period in March 2107 to all students, faculty, and staff at the College on all three campuses. The survey was administered online and introduced via a college email communication. A total of 24,634 faculty, staff, and students were issued the survey. The survey was administered to 21,679 students:

- 10,484 are part time taking less than 12 credits;
- 11,195 are full time taking 12 or more credits.
- 236 students responded to the survey for a 1.1% participation rate.

The survey was administered to 2,955 faculty/staff;

- 337 (60.7%) identified themselves as faculty
- 224 (39.9%) identified themselves as staff/administration
- 4 respondents did not chose a category
- 565 faculty/staff responded to the survey for a 19.1% participation rate.

The project was coordinated through the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, who ensured coordination with SUNY and the 3rd party vendor, Campus Labs. The results remained confidential and it was communicated to all that survey results would be aggregated to ensure protection of identity.

Results

The Title IX Coordinator's role includes receiving reports, coordinating campus response, ensuring training/education is provided to the campus community, and providing reporting individuals with accommodations and services during an investigation. Over 91% of faculty/staff respondents selected these choices in describing the role; 9% indicated they were unsure. 35% of students responded that they were unsure of the Title IX Coordinator's role.

When asked about College policies and procedures addressing sexual assault, 58% of student respondents indicated that they were aware of policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual assault and 20% of students stated that they do not know how to report incidents. When students indicated what resources they were aware of, 74% of students named Public Safety and another 67% named Counseling.

94% of faculty and staff indicated that they believe it is "very likely" or "likely" that an employee will get help and resources for a student who tells them they have been assaulted. 86% of faculty and staff indicated they know how to advise students where to get help on campus. 91% indicated they believe it is "very likely" or "likely" that a fellow employee will call for help/call 911 if they hear a neighbor yelling "help."

68% of students understood the definition of affirmative consent; 82% understood that someone who is incapacitated could not provide consent. 91% of faculty and staff understood the definition; and 93% understood that someone who is incapacitated could not provide consent.

27% of students reported that they experienced unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs or demeaning jokes in the last year. It should be noted that there was no opportunity to describe the location of this conduct or behavior, so we are not able to ascertain whether these incidents occurred on or off campus. Students were asked whether or not an intimate partner had engaged in particular behaviors related to dating violence and stalking, and over 75% indicated they had not experienced them.

72% of students indicated they believe it is “very likely” or “likely” that a fellow student will call for help/call 911 if they hear a neighbor yelling “help” and 75% indicated they think a fellow student will get help and resources for a friend who tells them that they have been assaulted.

Discussion and next steps

Suffolk County Community College plans to continue its work in educating students, faculty, staff, and visitors about their rights and responsibilities related to sexual violence. Despite the small response rate for this survey, the College intends to continue to increase its visibility and reach additional college community members by providing resources, education and training, and ongoing communication.

The President has charged the Title IX Coordinator and Vice President of Student Affairs to collaborate with campus based leadership in providing additional support to students, faculty, and staff.

There has been mandatory training for faculty and staff including those who are responsible employees and are required to make referrals. There will be follow up with Academic Chairs and student service departments with a goal to increase understanding and appropriate protocols when making referrals and to share additional on and off campus resources.

Several faculty on each campus take part in hosting sexual violence prevention programs each semester. Many do this as a part of their academic interest, or in their role as advisor to a student club or organization. Programs provided include panel discussions, dialogues, forums, and films that have been very well attended by students. We hope to increase the visibility of these programs and expand them college wide where possible.

The College will work with students to generate ideas for increasing awareness, communication, and an understanding of these policies and issues. We will explore the possibility of piloting student peer education programs in preventing sexual violence. There are plans to: provide information during student virtual orientation; continue partnerships with local community organizations to support programming efforts and more effectively support student victims; increase the number of presentations during College Seminar courses (COL 101 and 105); and update bystander intervention programs for students. In addition, the College plans to implement the online student SUNY Sexual Violence Training during the 2017-18 academic year.

If you have suggestions about how Suffolk County Community College can reduce incidents and increase prevention of sexual violence, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking, please contact the Chief Diversity Officer/Title IX Coordinator at vargasc@sunysuffolk.edu to share your ideas.

Appendix A

About Campus Labs:

The Campus Labs® platform offers integrated software and cloud-based assessment tools for higher education. The corporate mission is focused on empowering and transforming colleges and universities through strategic data insights. Campus Labs is headquartered in Buffalo, New York. Specific to the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) Campus Climate Survey, Campus Labs is providing the technology to administer the survey and analyze the collected data. Campus Labs has also provided consultation in the form of two consultants whose role is to advise SUNY representatives on the logistics and administration of the survey.

Data Security:

Campus Labs is committed to maintaining the highest standards in data security. To protect information used in internet transactions (e.g. online surveys, data reports), Campus Labs use the following security techniques and procedures:

- Secure login access (username and password) is required to access all data reports
- Information is exchanged via Secure Socket Layer (SSL) that uses 128-bit encryption
- Information requests must pass through multiple hardware and software security firewalls
- Campus Labs' data center is monitored 24/7 and access is restricted to authorized parties with validated key cards
- Data is backed up every hour internally
- Data is backed up every night to a centralized backup system, with offsite backups in the event of catastrophe.
- Campus representatives will have access to all data for their campus only.
- SUNY Administrators will have access to the data of all participating campuses
- Respondent identifiers are hidden from the SUNY and campus representatives administering the SVP Campus Climate Survey. At no time will SUNY or campus representatives be able to see respondent identifiers linked to individual's responses.

Appendix B

SUNY Policy

SUNY Policies on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/policies/> and <http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/policies/response/>

SUNY Policies <http://system.suny.edu/compliance/topics/sexual-violence-prevention/>

Campus Resources and Best Practices <http://system.suny.edu/university-life/sexual-assault-prevention/>

Sexual Assault and Violence Response Resources <https://www.suny.edu/violence-response/> with resources on or off campus by location, campus, city.

Appendix C

Suffolk County Community College Policies and Resources

Sexual Harassment and Title IX Complaints resource page:

<http://department.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/5122.asp>

Suffolk CCC Title IX Brochure:

http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/BOTPolicies>Title_IX_Brochure_2016_FinalVersion_722516B.pdf

Student Code of conduct: http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/F7_Student_Code_of_Conduct.pdf

Students Bill of Rights: http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/F7_Student_Code_of_Conduct.pdf

Sexual Violence Response Policy:

<http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/BOTPolicies/SexualViolenceResponsePolicy2015.pdf>

Definition of Affirmative Consent:

<http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/BOTPolicies/DefinitionAffirmativeConsent2015.pdf>

Policy for Alcohol and/or Drug Use Amnesty in Sexual and Interpersonal Violence Cases:

<http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/BOTPolicies/DrugAmnestyPolicy2015.pdf>

Options for Confidentially Disclosing Sexual Violence:

<http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/BOTPolicies/Options4ConfidentiallyDisclosingSexualViolence2015.pdf>

Video on Title IX at SCCC: <http://scccmedia.weebly.com/title-ix.html>

Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedure for Employee Claims of Harassment by Another Employee, Guest or Contractor:

<http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/BOTPolicies/SexualHarrasemployeepolicy.pdf>

Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedure for Student Claims of Harassment by a faculty member, administrator, employee, guest or contractor:

<http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/LegalAffairs/Docs/BOTPolicies/SexualHarrassStudentpolicy.pdf>