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April 5, 2019

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: The Los Angeles Community College District Commitment Statement in support of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

The National Academies report on *Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2018)* found that between 20 and 50 percent of women students and more than 50 percent of women faculty and staff experienced sexually harassing behavior while in academia. Research demonstrates that sexual harassment undermines women's professional and educational attainment and their mental and physical health. It also shows that these consequences are not limited to those experiencing it directly; but that bystanders – both men and women – who experience ambient harassment in their work or education environment are also affected and this in turn affects organizations as employees disengage, withdraw, and leave their work so as not to become the next target.

The report concludes that system-wide changes to the culture and climate in higher education are needed and provides a roadmap for higher education to make these changes.

Our mission here at the Los Angeles Community College District is to foster student success for all by providing equitable and supportive learning environments at our nine colleges that serve over 200,000 students annually. This mission is fulfilled only if we actively create diverse, inclusive, and respectful environments that convey sexual harassment is not welcomed or tolerated, and actively work to mitigate or eliminate factors in our environment that contributing to allowing sexual harassment to occur.

To advance efforts to prevent and effectively respond to sexual harassment, the Los Angeles Community College District is proudly joining other institutions and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to form an *Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education*. This Action Collaborative will facilitate partnerships and joint action on addressing and preventing sexual harassment.

Together, with the other institutional members of the Action Collaborative, we aim to achieve targeted, collective action toward evidence-based policies and practices at the individual and systems levels for addressing and preventing all forms of sexual harassment and promoting a culture of civility and respect.

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The four goals of the Action Collaborative are to:

1. Raise awareness about sexual harassment and how it occurs, the consequences of sexual harassment, and the organizational characteristics and recommended approaches that can prevent it.

2. Share and elevate evidence-based institutional policies and strategies to reduce and prevent sexual harassment.
3. Contribute to setting the research agenda, and gather and apply research results across institutions.
4. Develop a standard for measuring progress toward reducing and preventing sexual harassment in higher education.

With this letter, the Los Angeles Community College District does hereby commit to support the goals of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine *Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'F' followed by a horizontal line.

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Los Angeles Community College District