

September 8, 2023

The National Academies report on [Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \(2018\)](#) concluded that system-wide changes to the culture and climate in higher education were needed and provided a roadmap for pursuing these changes. Research demonstrates that sexual harassment undermines the professional and educational attainment and mental and physical health of people of all genders. It also shows that these consequences are not limited to those experiencing it directly; but that bystanders – people of all genders – 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 Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education works to encourage and support system-wide changes across higher education to prevent and address sexual harassment experienced by all people in higher education and to deal with the issue in the context of other damaging behaviors including other forms of harassment (such as racial harassment), discrimination, bullying, and incivility.

As a public community college dedicated to the success of each student, Santa Barbara City College welcomes all students. The College provides a diverse learning environment and opportunities for students to enrich their lives, advance their careers, complete certificates, earn associate degrees, and transfer to four-year institutions. The College is committed to fostering an equitable, inclusive, respectful, participatory, and supportive community dedicated to the success of every student.

To advance efforts to prevent and effectively respond to sexual harassment, Santa Barbara City College is continuing to collaborate with other institutions and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on this Action Collaborative, which brings together leaders from academic institutions and key stakeholders to collaboratively work toward and share targeted action on addressing and preventing sexual harassment across all disciplines and among all people in higher education. 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. The shared goals of the Action Collaborative are to:

- Facilitate and inform action on preventing and addressing harassment;
- Share and elevate evidence-based policies and strategies for reducing and preventing sexual harassment;
- Advance research on sexual harassment prevention, and gather and apply research results across institutions;
- Raise awareness about sexual harassment and its consequences, and motivate action to address and prevent it; and
- Assess progress in higher education toward reducing and preventing sexual harassment in higher education.

We remain committed to support the goals of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education.

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