

University of Minnesota Commitment Statement in Support of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

January 10th, 2024

The University of Minnesota is pleased to continue membership in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Action Collaborative on Prevention Sexual Harassment in Higher Education for an additional two years. The University of Minnesota is committed to engaging in continued work to change the culture of the academy and to providing comprehensive prevention and response programming across all five UMN campuses. As such, in 2023, the University of Minnesota created the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Program (SMPP). The aim of the SMPP is to institutionalize and expand on work launched in 2017 through the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct (PIPSM) by taking a systemwide approach to addressing sexual misconduct prevention and response. Specifically, the SMPP is focused on:

1. system-level, data-driven policy making;
2. supporting and expanding the development of sexual misconduct prevention programming for students, staff, and faculty using public health, trauma-informed, and social justice frameworks;
3. convening stakeholders systemwide to facilitate critical collaborations for effective prevention and response; and
4. monitoring and evaluating the University's sexual misconduct prevention, reduction, and response efforts for their effectiveness over time.

The SMPP is located within the Office for Equity and Diversity and is supported by an executive oversight committee with membership including the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Vice President for Research, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President for Academic Clinical Affairs, the Vice President for Equity and Diversity, the Vice President for Human Resources, the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, the University of Minnesota Duluth Chancellor, and the Title IX Coordinator. The SMPP seeks a future for UMN communities that promotes a culture of respect and accountability, health and wellness in relationships, commitment to the welfare of others, protection of human rights and due process, and that is free from sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Along with other institutions and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, UMN will continue the important work done through membership in the *Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education*. The Action Collaborative goals include:

1. Facilitate and inform action on preventing and addressing harassment;
2. Share and elevate evidence-based policies and strategies for reducing and prevention sexual harassment;
3. Advance research on sexual harassment prevention, and gather and apply research results across institutions;

4. Raise awareness on sexual harassment prevention, and its consequences, and motivate action to address and prevent it; and
5. Assess progress in higher education toward reducing and preventing sexual harassment in higher education.

The University of Minnesota **hereby commits to support the goals of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine *Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education***.