

January 19, 2021

This year has called on WCC to stretch ourselves and innovate how we serve our community in a thousand ways, some big, and some small. Our instructors have taken their courses online, many for the first time; staff have found new ways to serve students from a distance; and students have triumphed by continuing their studies in these wildly unusual times. Through all of this, critical discussions of equity have continued throughout our entire campus community.

It is in the spirit of this drive to stretch and grow that Whatcom Community College commits to join in the work being done in the Partner Network within the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education.

WCC has always been committed to the safety of our campus. All staff and faculty receive training in responding to reports of sexual misconduct through Human Resources. All student leaders on our campus receive training on how to help their fellow students who have experienced sexual misconduct. A committee formed last summer and insured Title IX, gender equity, and sexual misconduct topics were threaded throughout our Educational Planning curriculum. Our commitment extends to the community, with our work with the Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence.

We are proud of this work, but know that there is so much more we can be doing. To this end, the college is making the following commitments:

- The creation of a lead team of key stakeholders responsible for the review of the NASEM Action Collaborative Repository of Work, implementing promising practices on campus, as well as participating actively in the Action Collaborative work.
- Regular campus climate data, published publicly for current and prospective students, employees, and community members.
- Expanding our work with community groups and efforts, including DVSAS as well as the Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence.

These commitments are only the beginning of our journey to becoming leaders in this work. More information will come as our lead team gets started in their work, and opportunities to get involved will be announced in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Ed.D.
President