

Year 2 Public Description of Work for Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign Confidential Advisors/Embedded Counselors

Relevant Rubric Area:

REMEDIATION (Enhanced Confidential Resources and Support Services)

Description of the work:

To strengthen the delivery of existing confidential resources and support services, the Women's Resources Center (WRC) launched the inaugural ***Embedded Confidential Advisor Model*** in 2020. In partnership with La Casa Cultural Latina and the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center (BNAACC), the Model strategically stewards campus resources in a manner that more collectively addresses sexual violence and other forms of oppression through the creation and implementation of the Model. To achieve this end, the WRC placed two full time embedded Confidential Advisors (spring/summer 2020) and placed them in these two campus spaces to reach underserved and uniquely vulnerable student, faculty, and staff populations. Embedding this Model within cultural centers on campus permits sexual misconduct prevention and response work to meet survivor needs in multiple locations, while engaging community strengths, and recognizing the barriers marginalized communities face when receiving support. The Model was designed in partnership with both of our partners (staff and students) to ensure accessibility, culturally specific approaches, and ongoing collaboration and accountability.

The purpose of the Confidential Advisors is to provide a variety of support services including:

- Advocacy for academic needs
- Advocacy for housing needs (on and off campus)
- Advocacy within the student disciplinary system and/or criminal justice system
- Advocacy for employment needs
- Information and advocacy for medical needs
- Advocacy with and support for partners, friends, and parents
- Referrals for mental and physical health needs on campus and in the community

Their role is to provide survivors with their rights and options, reduce barriers to services and next steps, and advocate alongside them for the duration of their choosing. During the period covered by this report, this service included accompaniment to meetings or investigative hearings if the survivors chooses to pursue those options. Due to COVID-19, some services were

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held hybrid. However, the services and support were offered through the entire academic year for the first time through a hybrid model.

At the University of Illinois, Confidential Advisors are located within the Women's Resource Center, a unit of the Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Relations and Student Affairs. All services are free of charge and available for persons of all gender identities.

Confidential Advisors are specifically trained on state law, campus policy and procedures, and trauma-informed advocacy and support methods for survivors of sexual misconduct. The Women's Resources Center Director and staff collaborate directly with other cultural and resource centers on campus as well as with the Title IX Office, the Office for Access and Equity, and the Office of the Dean of Students, among others.

Website for further information (if applicable):

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