

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

**West Virginia University**

**Prevention Programming Evaluation**

**Relevant Rubric Areas:** Evaluation: evaluating prevention programs

**Description of Work:**

**1. Purpose and Goals**

Under new leadership, WVU's Prevention Team took advantage of the chaos of 2020 to take a step back and re-assess existing programs, materials, collaborative partners and University-wide education. While the Prevention Education team is busy and doing the excellent work of prevention, outside of full calendars and word of mouth, very little of this work is demonstrable to others outside of the team.

WVU has a robust prevention education program that is staff by four full time staff members. Between the four staff members, a wide range of trainings and educational sessions are offered to the entire WVU Community, which includes its two regional campuses. Training topics and educational sessions range from Title IX compliance type trainings, to Bystander Intervention, trainings on consent, and healthy relationships to name a few. Prior to the Fall 21 semester, the only feedback the prevention education team received was anecdotal. Prevention trainings and programs were not evaluated in away leaving the team in the dark about the level of impact of their reach and the efficacy of their work.

During the Spring 21 semester, WVU's Prevention Team identified the five most delivered prevention trainings and developed corresponding evaluations for each. While the nature of the training dictates the specific questions and question format, each evaluation seeks to measure knowledge (e.g. where to go to seek support and key terms); skills (e.g. can people recognize/intervene/provide support/report); and behaviors (will people intervene/provide support/report). Training evaluation data will allow the Prevention Team to determine if trainings are effective and how they can be evolved to become more effective in increasing knowledge, skills, and behaviors.

In addition to measuring efficacy of the prevention trainings, the evaluations will assist the Prevention Team in identifying groups and communities across campus that may need additional targeted training and education and groups that may currently be outside the Team's reach.

**Consistent with NASEM Report/Rubric**

The primary goal of the Prevention Team is to provide a robust prevention and education program that is demonstrably effective; comprehensive; appropriately timed in development; have sufficient dosage (i.e., multiple sessions tend to be better than single sessions); administered by well-trained staff; socio-culturally relevant; based in a sound theory of change; build on support positive relationships; utilized varied teaching methods; and, include outcome

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evaluation.<sup>1</sup> This is consistent with the Action Collaborative stated goal of moving beyond the realm of compliance (merely offering a “mandatory training”) and into the realm of best practice by effectively changing knowledge, skills, and behaviors to prevent sex and gender-based harassment in higher education.

### **Current Status of the Work**

The Prevention Team’s busiest time of year is the Fall of every academic year, and so using the academic year as the starting point for evaluating trainings and prevention programs was a logical decision. The Fall 21 semester is a “test run” of the evaluations. At the end of the semester, the Prevention Team will re-assess the evaluations and revise to ensure they are providing the Prevention Team with the necessary information to continue to offer and evolve effective trainings. Evaluation data will continue to be collected in the Spring 22 semester. During the Summer 22, the Prevention Team will analyze the data and make informed changes to prevention trainings and programs. At this time the Prevention Team will continue to develop evaluations for additional training and prevention programs.

**Website for further information (if applicable):** <https://diversity.wvu.edu/equity-assurance>

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014). Preventing sexual violence on college campuses: Lessons from research and practice. Retrieved [date] from <https://www.notalone.gov/schools/>.