



May 1, 2021

Utah State University (USU) is committed to serving as a Partner Institution in the Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The Action Collaborative's commitment to "identifying, researching, developing, implementing, and sharing efforts that move beyond basic legal compliance to evidence-based policies and practices for addressing and preventing all forms of sexual harassment and promoting a campus climate of civility and respect" aligns with USU's ongoing sexual harassment prevention and response work. USU has recently joined Aspire: The National Alliance for Inclusive & Diverse STEM Faculty and is very dedicated to creating a more inclusive campus environment in all of its programs, including STEM.

USU particularly appreciates the Collaborative's goal of moving beyond basic legal compliance, which is at the center of the university's prevention and response efforts.

As a Partner Institution, the university commits to participate actively in the Action Collaborative's work; share information about the university's efforts and innovations around preventing and addressing sexual harassment; and use, adapt, implement, and share the resources and practices that are identified or published by the Action Collaborative. Various university professionals have participated in both of the Action Collaborative's previous Public Summits and USU prevention professionals have utilized the Collaborative's online resources to enhance the university's prevention efforts. The university finds the Action Collaborative's efforts to date helpful and believes that participation in the Partner Network would allow for continued growth in this area.

USU's sexual violence Implementation and Coordination Committee (ICC) is part of the university's sexual violence task force. The ICC includes various university partners (e.g., marketing and communications, residence life, student affairs, Title IX, general counsel, advocacy and therapy services) who meet monthly to move the university's prevention and response efforts forward. Members of this committee will be primarily responsible for ensuring the university meets the Action Collaborative's annual obligations, which USU commits to continue doing: develop new approaches to address the problem from a preventative orientation; implement and test new or revised programs, policies, and practices each year; share results from these new or revised approaches each year; and identify and engage a group of additional individuals at the institution who can assist and inform this work.

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A summary of USU's actions related to sexual harassment since spring 2016 is available at usu.edu/sexual-respect/timeline. The university's "Sexual Respect" website (sexualrespect.usu.edu) includes information about prevention and response efforts, university support and reporting resources, and university oversight of sexual harassment work.

Sincerely,



Noelle E. Cockett
President

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