



## 2017 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct Executive Summary

SUNY Broome Community College prides itself on creating an environment where all students, faculty, staff, and visitors can feel safe from being a victim of sexual, or any other form of violence. However, if there is an instance of sexual or interpersonal violence where a member of the SUNY Broome community is involved, we will take direct action in addressing such behavior.

In spring 2017, SUNY Broome Community College facilitated its first Campus Climate Survey so as to better understand the campus and make informed decisions when it comes to providing a safe educational environment. This survey is meant to ascertain the student experience with, and knowledge of, reporting and college adjudicatory processes for sexual harassment, including sexual violence, and other related crimes.

The survey addresses to what extent students and employees of SUNY Broome Community College are knowledgeable about:

1. The Title IX Coordinator's role;
2. Campus policies and procedures addressing sexual assault;
3. How and where to report sexual violence as a victim/survivor or witness;
4. The availability of resources on and off campus, such as counseling, health, and academic assistance;
5. The prevalence of victimization and perpetration of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on and off campus during a set time period (for example, the last two years);
6. Bystander attitudes and behavior;
7. Whether victims/survivors reported to the College and/or Office of Public Safety, and reasons why they did or did not report;
8. The general awareness of the difference, if any, between the institution's policies and the penal law, and;
9. The general awareness of the definition of affirmative consent.

Steps have been, and will continue to be, taken to ensure that all answers remain anonymous and that no individual is identified.

Of the 5376 SUNY Broome Community College students invited to participate in the study 323 students contributed, creating a student response rate of 6%. Of the 323 students who began the survey, 180 completed it in its entirety. Additionally, 795 employees (faculty, staff, and administrators) were asked to complete the survey. 146 employees contributed, creating an employee response rate of 18.36%. Of the 146 employees who began the survey, 125 completed it in its entirety.

The following provides a summary of initial results from those surveys. The complete data packages can be found at <http://www2.sunybroome.edu/dos/climate/>.

# Perceptions of Campus Climate

## Students

### Policies and Procedures

The findings reveal that the majority of respondents (65.85%) are aware that SUNY Broome Community College has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual misconduct. The majority of respondents are also familiar with the College's definition of Affirmative Consent (69.61%), and 85.92% are aware that any individuals who are incapacitated cannot give consent. Respondents were not confident in being able to distinguish the differences between the College disciplinary process and the criminal justice system (51.52%), however 54.78% were not aware of the amnesty policy for those who report sexual misconduct, which states that students reporting sexual misconduct will not be subject to SUNY Broome's code of conduct action for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

### Where to go for Help

Respondents overwhelmingly (94.73%) felt that they were aware of at least one person/department on campus to which they could go to formally disclose a sexual assault on campus. The majority of respondents (70.92%) stated that they were unaware of how to find the Title IX Coordinator and 29.30% of those who responded were unsure of what the role of the Title IX Coordinator was.

### Prohibited Sexual Conduct

Of the 186 respondents who completed the following portion of the survey,

- 49 (26.34%) stated that they have experienced unwanted sexual comments, sexual slurs, or demeaning jokes,
- 4 (2.15%) were aware that someone was viewing their sexual activity or nakedness without their consent,
- 36 (19.25%) received unwanted sexually suggestive digital communications, either words or images or both, including emails, texts, social media communications, or in letters or other written communications,
- 21 (11.23%) experienced someone attempting to fondle, kiss, or rub up against the private areas of their body without consent, with 10 (5.38%) stating that the individual was able to accomplish one or more of those acts, and
- 5 (2.68%) had someone attempt to, or complete the act of, sexually penetrating them without consent.

For those who responded in the affirmative above, when asked about their most recent experience, 48.33% shared that they knew the person and 23.33% were affiliated with the campus community. Only 27.12% told anyone of their experience, and only five (5) individuals shared their experiences with SUNY Broome Community College faculty, staff, or peer advisors.

## Employee (Faculty, Staff, and Administrators)

### Policies and Procedures

The findings reveal that the majority of respondents (78.52%) are aware that SUNY Broome Community College has policies and procedures specifically addressing sexual misconduct. A small majority (58.96%) were aware of the distinction between confidential and private reporting, but 69.63% strongly agree or agree with the statement "If a student were sexually assaulted, I know how to advise them on where to get help on campus."

The majority of respondents are also familiar with the College's definition of Affirmative Consent (78.74%), and 95.35% are aware that any individuals who are incapacitated cannot give consent. Respondents were confident in being able to distinguish the differences between the College disciplinary process and the criminal justice system with 70.40% acknowledging they know the difference. This is indicative of the success attained through several trainings organized for faculty, staff, and students across campus. However, 59.20% were not aware of the amnesty policy for those who report sexual misconduct which states that students reporting sexual misconduct will not be subject to SUNY Broome's code of conduct action for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

### Where to go for Help

Respondents overwhelmingly (98.41%) felt that they were aware of at least one person/department on campus to which they could go to formally disclose a sexual assault on campus. The majority of respondents (63.41%) stated that they were aware of how to find the Title IX Coordinator, and 29.30% of those who responded had generalized understanding of what the role of the Title IX Coordinator was.

### Prohibited Sexual Conduct

Of the 122 respondents who completed the following portion of the survey, 16 (13.11%) had a student disclose to them that they had been a victim of an unwanted sexual experience (including sexual assault), domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, regardless of where such incident is reported to have occurred. Of the 16 reported cases, only eight (8) were reported to the Title IX Coordinator, a Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or the Office of Public Safety. Two (2) additional were reported to the Counseling Services office. Those who did not report shared that they did not because:

- The student asked them not to (3)
- They believed they were supposed to keep it confidential (2)
- They did not believe that appropriate action would take place upon the reporting of the incident (1)

## **Use of Findings and Next Steps**

SUNY Broome Community College will use the findings from this survey to improve education, prevention training, and response efforts. Further analyses of the survey results are planned to better understand variation in students' attitudes and experiences so that targeted messaging and outreach can be facilitated.

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“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

*-Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 to the  
1964 Civil Rights Act*



## **Appendix A**

### **About Campus Labs:**

The Campus Labs® platform offers integrated software and cloud-based assessment tools for higher education. The corporate mission is focused on empowering and transforming colleges and universities through strategic data insights. Campus Labs is headquartered in Buffalo, New York. Specific to the SUNY Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) Campus Climate Survey, Campus Labs is providing the technology to administer the survey and analyze the collected data. Campus Labs has also provided consultation in the form of two consultants whose role is to advise SUNY representatives on the logistics and administration of the survey.

### **Data Security:**

Campus Labs is committed to maintaining the highest standards in data security. To protect information used in internet transactions (e.g. online surveys, data reports), Campus Labs uses the following security techniques and procedures:

- Secure login access (username and password) is required to access all data reports
- Information is exchanged via Secure Socket Layer (SSL) that uses 128-bit encryption
- Information requests must pass through multiple hardware and software security firewalls
- Campus Labs' data center is monitored 24/7 and access is restricted to authorized parties with validated key cards
- Data is backed up every hour internally
- Data is backed up every night to a centralized backup system, with offsite backups in the event of catastrophe.
- Campus representatives will have access to all data for their campus only.
- SUNY Administrators will have access to the data of all participating campuses
- Respondent identifiers are hidden from the SUNY and campus representatives administering the SVP Campus Climate Survey. At no time will SUNY or campus representatives be able to see respondent identifiers linked to individual's responses.

## **Appendix B**

### **SUNY Policy**

Campus Resources and Best Practices

<http://system.suny.edu/university-life/sexual-assault-prevention/>

Sexual Assault and Violence Response Resources (with resources on or off campus by location, campus, city)

<https://www.suny.edu/violence-response/>

SUNY Policies

<https://system.suny.edu/university-life/sexual-assault-prevention/>

SUNY Policies on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response:

<http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/policies/>

<http://system.suny.edu/sexual-violence-prevention-workgroup/policies/response/>