



Purdue University Commitment Statement in support of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

June 30, 2019

Purdue University is deeply committed to the land-grant ideals of access to the transformative power of education, research focused on addressing the world's most pressing challenges, and bringing the University to our stakeholders with the goal of helping improve their lives and livelihoods. Underpinning our University is a set of core values: integrity, respect, honor, inclusion, innovation, and growth. We are also deeply committed to the principle of freedom of expression, of creating a University where open exchange of ideas is possible in an environment of respect. Living these values and commitments as an institution demands that we are a place that supports the highest aspirations of all, a place free of behaviors that undermine potential, present barriers to success, and marginalize any of our faculty, staff, and students.

Sexual harassment is a behavior that prevents us from fulfilling our commitments and values. The National Academies report on [*Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \(2018\)*](#) indicates that sexual harassment undermines the professional and educational attainment and mental and physical health of people of all genders. It also reports that these consequences are not limited to those experiencing it directly; but that bystanders who experience ambient harassment in their work or educational environment are also affected. Ultimately, the report concludes, such behavior has a debilitating effect on organizations as employees disengage, withdraw, and leave their work so as not to become the next target. The *Sexual Harassment of Women* report concludes that system-wide changes to the culture and climate in higher education are needed and provides a roadmap for higher education to make these changes.

To enhance our efforts to prevent and effectively respond to sexual harassment, Purdue University is joining 59 other institutions and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to form an *Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education*. This Action Collaborative will facilitate partnerships and joint action on addressing and preventing sexual harassment and related damaging behaviors. Together, with the other institutional members of the Action Collaborative, Purdue University aims to achieve targeted, collective action toward evidence-based policies and practices at the individual and systems levels to address and prevent all forms of sexual harassment and to promote a culture defined by our core values.

In accordance with and in support of our commitments and values to provide equal opportunity for all, Purdue University hereby commits to support the goals of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine *Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education*.