September 27, 2019

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

The University of Miami is a private research university with more than 17,000 students from around the world and is focused on creating a future that reaches across geographic, cultural, and intellectual borders. The University comprises 11 schools and colleges serving undergraduate and graduate students in more than 180 majors and programs across three campuses, including: Coral Gables Campus, Miller Medical Campus, and Rosenstiel Marine and Atmospheric Science campus.

The University seeks to maintain a safe learning, living, and working environment free from all types of sex-based and gender-based discrimination prohibited by state and federal laws, including Title IX and Title VII, and in keeping with the University's culture of belonging, values, and expected behaviors. The University provides innovative education and training, conducts research that advances medicine, and delivers clinical care that improves the lives of our patients. Our mission will be fulfilled only if we actively create diverse, inclusive, and respectful environments that affirm sexual harassment is not tolerated and actively work to mitigate or eliminate factors in our environment that may contribute to the occurrence of sexual harassment.

To advance efforts to prevent and effectively respond to sexual harassment, the University of Miami is joining 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. Together, with the other institutional members of the Action Collaborative, we aim to achieve targeted, collective action toward evidence-based policies and practices at the individual and organizational level to address and prevent all forms of sexual harassment and promote a culture of civility and respect.

The four goals of the Action Collaborative are to:

1. Raise awareness about sexual harassment and how it occurs, the consequences of sexual harassment, and the organizational characteristics and recommended approaches that can prevent it.
2. Share and elevate evidence-based institutional policies and strategies to reduce and prevent sexual harassment.
3. Contribute to setting the research agenda, and gather and apply research results across institutions.
4. Develop a standard for measuring progress toward reducing and preventing sexual harassment in higher education.

The University of Miami hereby commits to support the goals of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education.

Beverly Pruitt
Assistant VP, Workplace Equity & Performance
Title IX Coordinator

Dr. Ashley L. Falcon
Assistant Professor of Clinical School of Nursing and Health Studies