

Baltimore City Community College: Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey Narrative

Survey Administration

Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) elected to utilize the model survey instrument provided by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) in Appendix B. The fall 2017 survey items remained the same as those in the spring 2016 survey. Both the 2016 and 2017 surveys were administered via SurveyMonkey with 40 respondents in spring 2016 and 90 respondents in fall 2017. A link to the fall 2017 survey was posted via Canvas, the College's learning management system, and the survey was open for two weeks in December 2017. Respondents were offered the opportunity to participate in a drawing to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. The 125% increase in respondents is believed to be attributed to increased awareness of the survey via Canvas and the incentive of the gift card.

In terms of the characteristics of the students, distributions were similar in terms of race and attendance status (full-time vs. part-time). The majority of the fall 2017 respondents fell into two age categories: 25.0% are 40 - 59 years of age and 23.9% are 20 - 24 years of age. Notable changes in the distributions of the respondents' characteristics include the following.

- Higher proportion of students who take classes at night (from 17.5% to 28.4%)
- Slightly higher proportion of female students (from 77.5% to 82.0%)
- Slightly higher proportion of students 40 years of age and over (from 25% to 29.5%)

Perceptions of Safety and General Campus Climate

The overall feeling by students is that our campus environment is safe and conducive to learning.

- A noteworthy improvement was the increase from 75.0% to 89.8% of student respondents indicating their agreement with the statement "BCCC employees are genuinely concerned about the welfare of students."
- The proportion indicating that they feel safe on campus remained stable at 81.5%.
- The proportion indicating agreement that BCCC employees respect what students think increased from 72.2% to 86.5%.
- The proportion who indicated agreement that students feel welcome on campus increased from 77.8% to 84.5%.
- 86.4% of respondents agreed that BCCC employees treat them fairly, and increase from 72.2%.
- The proportion who agreed that College officials would handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner increased from 80.0% to 83.8%

While there was an increase in the proportion of respondents that indicated agreement with the statement, "I understand what happens when I report a claim of sexual assault at the College," the 63.5% reflected in the results remains low. Additionally, the proportion of respondents indicating agreement with the statement, "The College is prepared to handle a crisis," remained

low at 59.7% and the proportion who agreed that Public Safety Officers are present on campus fell slightly from 85.7% to 83.3%.

BCCC also surveyed faculty and staff and the proportion who indicated agreement with the item related to College's ability to issue a timely warning of a crisis or incident, increased from 87.5% to 94.2%. Agreement that College officials would handle incidents in a fair and responsible manner increased from 69.8% to 76.5%. The College is pleased with the progress reflected; however, efforts are ongoing to continue to improve the campus climate.

It is encouraging to see substantial increases in the proportions of student respondents who indicated they received information about all items noted in the survey.

- Definition of sexual assault (30.0% to 54.4%)
- How to report sexual assault (25.0% to 43.3%)
- How to help prevent sexual assault (25.0% to 45.6%)
- Where to go for help if someone you know is sexually assaulted (22.5% to 44.4%)
- Title IX protections against sexual assault (20.0% to 54.4%)

Perceptions of Institution's Readiness and Ability to Address Issues of Sexual Violence

BCCC has made strides in several areas as reflected by increases in the proportions of respondents who indicated agree/strongly agree with the following statements.

- "If a colleague or I were sexually assaulted, I know who to contact on campus for help." (52.5% to 74.7%)
- "I understand that victims or witnesses can report sexual misconduct by sending a confidential email to the College's Title IX Coordinator." (67.5% to 84.9%)
- "I am certain that the College would issue a timely warning of a crisis or incident to students." (67.5% to 83.8%)
- "I understand what happens when I report a claim of sexual assault at the College." (50.0% to 63.5%)
- "The College would issue a timely warning of a crisis or incident to students." (76.7% to 81.3%)
- "The College would make sure that local law enforcement agencies were contacted for crimes occurring on campus." (88.5% to 90.1%)
- "The College would take the report seriously." (89.3% to 91.6%)
- "If requested by the victim, the College would report the incident to local law enforcement officials." (92.9% to 91.3%)
- "The College would provide the victim with referrals to appropriate counseling, mental health or other agencies." (82.1% to 88.0%)
- "The College would protect the confidentiality of the victim." (88.5% to 88.3%)

While there was an increase in the proportion of respondents that indicated agreement with the statement, "I understand what happens when I report a claim of sexual assault at the College,"

the 64% reflected in the results remains below the Colleges goal. Additionally, the proportion of respondents indicating agreement with the statement, "The College is prepared to handle a crisis," remained low at 60%.

Institutional Steps

The top priority for the Office of Judicial Affairs and Title IX (the Office) is to provide students with an educational experience in a safe and secure environment. To that end, the Office has implemented the "Title IX One Classroom at a Time" campaign. During the faculty training sessions held each semester, information is shared about the campaign and faculty members schedule times for their classes to receive the presentation. The presentation is conducted in all of the College's Preparation for Academic Achievement (PRE100) sections. During New Student Orientation for all first-time and incoming transfer students, a presentation is conducted about campus sexual misconduct and Title IX. The presentation includes myths around rape culture, warning signs of domestic violence, how to help a friend who has been affected by sexual assault or relationship violence, and other issues related to sexual and dating violence.

Prevention, education, and training are the foundation of the College's efforts to create a climate that is safe and supportive for all. The Title IX Coordinator and Title IX Investigators are well-trained and committed to ensuring that responses to incidents follow the law, Office for Civil Rights' guidance, and BCCC's policies. The Investigators are strategically designated throughout College in Human Resources, Athletics, Continuing Education, Academics, and Public Safety. As Title IX requires, the College will promptly and equitably respond to reports of prohibited conduct to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects on any individual, group, or the community.

An awareness campaign is key to ensuring that the community is informed about all things related to Title IX. The College has engaged in collaborative efforts across the campus to facilitate awareness efforts. College-wide presentations are designed and coordinated to meet the needs of all stakeholders. The Office of Judicial Affairs and Title IX produces a quarterly newsletter which addresses aspects of sexual misconduct including sexual assault, harassment, and violence, as well as targeted brochures to address various audiences. Every orientation for new employees includes presentations related to sexual misconduct and sexual harassment. Employees are provided with the tools to be prepared for what to do if a student reports an incident and guidance about appropriate interactions with students. The College's professional development calendar contains training sessions, workshops and presentations some of which are facilitated through BCCC's subject matter experts on campus as well by some external experts. Additionally, there are a variety of educational sessions customized to meet the needs of specific groups, such as student athletes and frontline departments such as the College's Student Success Center, academic departments, and members of the campus Public Safety Office.

Finally, the results of the survey and climate data will be shared with the campus community. The Office of Judicial Affairs and Title IX will produce an end-of-year report that will include the survey results. The intended audience will be students, faculty, staff, and the Board of Trustees. In general, the College has made a good deal of progress. At BCCC, there is a definite commitment to serving our students in safe climate that facilitates learning and goal attainment.