

February 22, 2018

Dear Iowa State Community:

Iowa State University will soon launch new training on sexual misconduct and Title IX discrimination prevention. In light of this as well as recent events at Michigan State University and the rise of the #MeToo and Time's Up campaigns, I want to address the very serious issue of sexual misconduct.

The first step in eradicating a problem is to acknowledge it exists. We must confront the fact that sexual assault, harassment, and other misconduct occur across the country and right here on our campus. It is imperative that every single one of us takes any and all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously. **We must start by believing, respond swiftly, and conduct a thorough investigation.** Survivors of sexual misconduct and anyone involved in a traumatic experience deserve to be treated with the utmost respect, care, and compassion, regardless of whether there is evidence to hold someone accountable under the law or university policy. We must acknowledge the impact these traumatic events have on members of our community. Our campus and community offer a number of [resources for help and healing](#). The only person responsible for sexual misconduct is the perpetrator.

I want to remind all administrators, faculty, and staff of their responsibility to immediately report known or rumored sexual misconduct to our Title IX Coordinator, [Margo Foreman](#) or to one of our [Deputy Title IX Coordinators](#).

As part of our campus-wide efforts to end sexual misconduct and Title IX discrimination at Iowa State, we are preparing to launch new, required training for students, faculty, and staff. Training for students will be available on AccessPlus starting Feb. 26 and will cover sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination prevention. Title IX training for faculty and staff will be available online at Learn@ISU beginning March 1. More information about the training is forthcoming.

Additionally, the [Green Dot program](#) has been on campus since July. Green Dot emphasizes bystander intervention to prevent sexual misconduct and personal violence. So far, more than 1600 members of the Iowa State community have completed Green Dot training, with more sessions beginning in April.

As your new president, my top priority is to ensure our campus is a place where everyone feels safe, welcome, included, and empowered to reach their full potential and thrive. Together, we must **commit to a culture of zero tolerance for sexual misconduct and discrimination, and I expect 100% completion for our new training. Thank you for your cooperation.**

Sincerely,

Wendy Wintersteen
President

**All campus messages from President Wintersteen are posted online at www.president.iastate.edu/messages*