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ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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October 12, 2023

Dear Higher Education Colleagues,

In 2021 Illinois enacted a <u>law</u> mandating that every institution of higher education within the state conduct an annual, anonymous campus climate survey on sexual misconduct developed by the Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys and approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The survey is needed because studies estimate that 90-95% of survivors choose not to make a report after an incident of sexual misconduct. Specifically in Illinois, 76.9% of universities reported zero cases of sexual violence in 2019. The use of a standardized campus climate survey at all institutions of higher education will allow for higher levels of transparency of actual victimization and perpetration rates and provide actionable data to shape policies to create a safer campus climate throughout the state. The Task Force completed its work on the survey and issued a <u>final report</u> in July 2023.

We are pleased to share with you the <u>base survey instrument</u> which each institution must administer. IBHE and the Task Force recommend that institutions field the survey for the first time in Spring 2024. Further instructions are included with the survey and implementation plan linked above.

As we move forward with implementation, IBHE plans to release additional guidance on the necessary reporting requirements. Please watch our website (<u>ibhe.org</u>) for future updates. If you have questions, please contact us at <u>sexualmisconductsurvey@ibhe.org</u>.

Sincerely,

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Ginger Ostro
Executive Director
Illinois Board of Higher Education