



## SATF Response to DeVos Statement

Dear Partners,

The Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF), a statewide, multi-disciplinary body espousing a survivor-centered philosophy, was created by the late Attorney General Hardy Myers at the urging of statewide advocates in an effort to improve the response to and prevention of sexual violence against adolescents and adults in Oregon. Among our membership, which includes over 100 partners who serve on 1 of 8 subcommittees, is our statewide Campus Subcommittee, comprised of representatives from Oregon's 2-year, 4-year, private and public colleges and universities.

Recently, the newly appointed Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, laid out a framework for the new administration's objectives moving forward regarding Title IX, threatening to rescind the *2011 Dear Colleague Letter*. Students and campus practitioners alike have since expressed unease, and question what the new framework will mean for student victims in Oregon.

Since the push for student-centered and trauma-informed changes ushered in by the Obama administration, SATF and campuses across Oregon have fostered best practices that are not only compliant with Title IX, but also effective at responding to and preventing the occurrence of violence on our campuses. SATF established the *Campus Investigation and Adjudication Training* satisfying annual training requirements, which teaches cutting edge investigatory techniques that take into account trauma and the dynamics of abuse, to over 400 investigators statewide. SATF created an anonymous [reporting options website](#) which has served over 11,000 students, and advocated for confidential options on campus for students to

gain information about options and academic support available to them. Following the implementation of advocate privilege, passed by the legislature in 2015, Oregon has seen a 138% increase in campus reporting, and a 122% increase in access to student support services on our campuses. Oregon's movement forward in campus compliance and best practice is unprecedented nationally.

SATF remains steadfast in our approach to promote and support best practices around Title IX and Clery. We will continue to provide technical assistance and training that simultaneously upholds due process, while centering a trauma-informed approach in response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, furthering policies and services that serve students best.

Preventing sexual violence on Oregon's campuses requires student access to safe, confidential spaces where they can explore their options and be given the support necessary to heal. In the true nature and spirit of Title IX, all students in Oregon deserve safe campuses in which they can pursue an education. We hope you will continue to join us in our efforts, further establishing Oregon as a leader in Title IX response and prevention efforts.



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