#### Human Resources Office of Equal Opportunity & Compliance



#### Creating Inclusive Workplaces: Diversity, Inclusion, & Compliance

Amber Wagner, HR Administrator Phone: (850) 645-6519







## Importance of Soft Skills

- Reduces absenteeism, sick leave, and turnover
- More motivated and engaged employees
- Better teamwork
- Creative solutions
- Better communication
- Fewer discrimination/harassment complaints
- Improved customer service

## Culture & Cultural Competency

Culture is make up of a set of values, attitudes, and beliefs that differ from one person/culture to another.

Cultural Competency is the ability to work effectively with people from different backgrounds, ethnicities, belief systems, and experiences.





## Building Cultural Competency

- Awareness of your own worldview
- Willingness to learn about other cultures
- Committing to fair and respectful treatment
- Recognize people as individuals
- Recognize your role
- Don't assume

## Creating a Positive Environment

- Respond to insensitivity
- Address issues promptly & seriously
- No one size fits all
- Put yourself in their shoes
- Be receptive to feedback



Create a productive workplace where people of all backgrounds and cultures feel included, welcome, and valued.

- Inclusive
- Respectful
- Productive



## Avoiding Pitfalls

- Examine your own behavior – be a positive role model
  - be aware of unconscious & "like me" bias
- Challenge stereotypes and assumptions
  - ex. believing that certain groups of people are only good at certain things
- Effectively address situations
- Filter
  - avoid "in group" joking or personal matters

## Handling Conflict

- Be aware of your body language
- Be considerate and respectful
- Be accepting and open-minded
- Provide clarification where possible
- Avoid jumping to conclusions
- Seek assistance from Human Resources









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# Non-Discrimination Policy

#### Prohibits:

- Denying employment opportunities
- Taking negative employment action
- Quid pro quo
- Creating a hostile work environment

Because of an employee's membership in a protected group in all terms and conditions of academics and employment.





- Sex/Gender Discrimination
- Sexual Harassment
- Gender Stereotyping/Animosity
- Rape/Sexual Assault/Battery
- Domestic Violence
- Dating Violence
- Stalking



## Examples

- Continued unwelcome flirting/requests for dates.
- Calling someone honey, baby, sugar, sweetie, or similar terms.
- Obscene gestures, sounds, jokes, practical jokes, emails, texts, leering.
- Giving unwelcome sexually suggestive compliments.
- Allowing coworkers to harass a colleague who is transitioning from one gender to another.
- Sexual violence.











Are you a confidential source?

#### 

You may keep the information on a need to know basis (private), but you cannot promise confidentiality. When in doubt reach out for guidance.



## **Reporting Triggers**

#### "Knew or Should Have Known" Standard

#### You have duty to report & respond if:

- Victim mentions
- You witness (see or hear)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Reports (coworkers/police/media)
- Rumor mill



## Non-Retaliation

Retaliation is prohibited against individuals who:

- Make a complaint (internal/external/lawsuit)
- Help someone report
- Participate in investigations
- Otherwise opposes discrimination

#### Defined Broadly

- Any action that could discourage a complaint
- Any negative employment action
- Creating a hostile work environment



## Retaliation is Illegal

- Retaliation is illegal/violates University Policy even if there was no underlying discrimination or sexual misconduct.
  - Can come from
    - Supervisors
    - Accused
    - Co-workers
- Must proactively monitor.



## Who Can be Disciplined?

#### Anyone who:

- engages in discrimination/sexual misconduct
- knowingly files a false claim
- retaliates against someone
- fails to comply with mandatory reporting requirements

#### **Key Points**

- 1. Unwelcome conduct
- 2. Intent is irrelevant
- 3. Complaining person need not be target
- 4. Gender & sexual orientation neutral
- 5. Consensual relationships
- 6. Mandatory reporting duties

#### **Final Thoughts** 1. Model appropriate behavior • Set the tone/culture (professional filter) Encourage reporting • Silence and inaction also sends a message 2. Proactively manage work environment Know your responsibilities Actively promote inclusion · If you see something say something Remind employees Regularly circulate policies 2. Contact EOC in HR • For consultation • To Report incidents • BEFORE taking action · Especially if recent protected activity (Retaliation)

