

AAU survey all campus email

October 15, 2019

TO: UMTC students, faculty and staff
FROM: Joan Gabel, President

Subject line: Results of 2019 AAU sexual misconduct survey

Email copy:

Dear students, faculty, and staff,

Last February, the University of Minnesota Twin Cities (UMTC) participated in the Association of American Universities (AAU) survey on sexual misconduct, the largest and most comprehensive examination of issues of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking on university campuses. UMTC was one of 33 schools nationwide who administered the survey in 2019. We also participated in the 2015 AAU survey.

Today, the AAU released aggregate data from the 2019 survey [{link}](#) and we are releasing the results of the UMTC survey. You can read the full report and review the data at z.umn.edu/aau2019.

Thank you to the nearly 13,000 degree-seeking UMTC students who took time to complete the survey. The responses will enhance our existing efforts to combat sexual violence and harassment and allow us to better respond to issues. I've asked campus leaders to dig into this new data further for additional insights and to make recommendations.

Significant 2019 results include:

More students are receiving training on these topics, and understand our definition of sexual misconduct, how to report an incident, what our procedures are and where to get help.

- 87.7 percent of incoming students completed at least one training, a 47.6 percent increase from 2015.
- 79 percent of returning students report completing at least one training since arriving on campus.
- There was a 24.7 percent increase in graduate and professional women with knowledge about how the University defines sexual assault and sexual misconduct and a 5.2 percent increase for undergraduate women.

Students are being active bystanders.

- Among students who reported witnessing a situation they believed could lead to sexual assault, more than three in four (75.5 percent) took some type of action (intervening or expressing concern).
- Among those who indicated witnessing a situation making someone feel uncomfortable or offended, 65.2 percent took some type of action.

Too many students at UMTC, and at colleges nationwide, experience sexual assault, harassment or other misconduct.

- 25.6 percent of undergraduate women have experienced non-consensual sexual contact (by physical force or inability to consent) since entering the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, a slight increase from 2015 and just below the national average.

- 18.7 percent of all students have experienced harassment while enrolled, with 38.3 percent of students experiencing harassing behavior. Nearly half of our LGBTQIA students report experiencing this type of behavior.

The University participated in the 2015 and 2019 surveys to better understand key issues related to sexual assault and sexual misconduct and to institute policies and procedures to address them. In the spring of 2017, [the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct \(PIPSM\)](#) was launched, with the goal of long-term culture change toward building a University community free from all forms of sexual misconduct. PIPSM relies on you — members of the University community — for active involvement in assessment, prevention, evaluation, and accountability, so that each and every one of us may experience a healthy, safe, and supportive culture.

There are campus resources available to you, including options to [report sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking](#) to the [Office Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action \(EOAA\)](#) or the [University of Minnesota Police Department \(UMPD\)](#). The [Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education](#) provides confidential consultation and offers advocates to victim-survivors.

As we further analyze the data, I will keep you updated on what we learn and how we plan to incorporate the findings to better serve our campus community. To this end, as we develop our University Systemwide Strategic Plan, we would welcome [your feedback](#) to frame our Commitments around this important issue. Each of us has an important role in ensuring that everyone who calls the University of Minnesota home feels welcome, safe, supported, and free from harassment.

Joan T.A. Gabel