



## Executive Summary of 2017 Survey on Campus Perceptions of Unwanted Sexual Experiences

### Participation

- ❖ 1,174 students participated in the survey with 833 completing it for a 71% completion rate. This represents a 31% increase in the overall rate of participation from the 2016 survey, with an 11% increase in the number of students who completed the survey in its entirety.
  - Participation among certain subgroups was also very strong, with 25% of first-year undergraduate students and 32% of all student-athletes participating in the survey.
  - 14% of students involved in Fraternity and Sorority life participated in the survey.
  - Participation remains low among graduate students (6%) and international students (6%).

### Perceptions

- ❖ 42% of respondents believe that “sexual harassment is a problem at DU,” while 36% believe that “sexual violence is a problem at DU.”
  - This represents a drastic shift in the survey results from 2016, in which 64% percent of respondents indicated that sexual harassment and sexual violence are a problem at DU.

### Experience

- ❖ **Sexual Harassment:** While generally lower than rates reported in last year’s results, many of our students still report experiencing some form of sexual harassment during their time at DU.
  - 49% report that someone has made unwanted commentary about their body; 40% report that they have been exposed to environments where there were offensive jokes about their gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation; 48% have experienced non-verbal harassment.
  - Consistent with last year’s results, undergraduate students report experiencing more sexual harassment than our graduate students.
  - Although most students report that DU undergraduate students were responsible for the harassment, 8.8% of graduate students participating in the survey indicated that they have experienced harassing behavior from a faculty or staff member; 4.5% of all students reported that a staff member, faculty member, or someone in a position of authority has “hit on” or propositioned them.
    - Among those graduate students who experienced harassing behavior, a faculty/staff member was responsible for the behavior 21% of the time.
- ❖ **Gender-based Violence:** While lower than rates reported in 2016, many of our students still report that they have experienced some form of gender-based violence since coming to DU.
  - 33% reported that someone has made unwanted physical contact with them; 6.5% reported that someone has sexually penetrated them against their will.
  - Both undergraduate and graduate students largely identified other students as the responsible party.
    - 6 undergraduate students (0.7%) and 14 graduate students (3.9%) reported that they’ve experienced such behavior from a faculty or staff member.



### **Utilization of Procedures and Resources**

- ❖ This year's responses represent the third consecutive year of increased understanding of DU's policies, procedures, and resources relating to sexual harassment and gender-based violence.
  - 62% report they understand DU's formal procedures to address complaints of sexual assault; 77% report if a friend or they were sexually assaulted, they know where to get help; 65% report believing that DU takes reports of sexual assault seriously.
  - Among those who experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking, DU's Center for Advocacy, Prevention, and Empowerment (CAPE) was the most frequently utilized resource on campus, followed by Equal Opportunity & Title IX, the HCC Counseling Department, and Campus Safety.

### **Resulting Action Items**

- ❖ The data regarding perceptions of sexually harassing behaviors by faculty and staff directed towards students is of concern. These perceptions are particularly prevalent among graduate students. The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will seek to increase sexual harassment awareness and education among faculty and staff. The Office also proposes exploring revisions to the University's consensual relationship policy governing romantic relationships between students and employees.
- ❖ In response to data indicating students' lack of awareness of educational events, the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will work collaboratively with the HCC's Health Promotion Team and the Division of Marketing and Communications to seek out meaningful, creative, and effective ways of informing students of upcoming educational programming related to prevention and awareness of gender-based violence.
- ❖ The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will seek insight from Institutional Research & Analysis to produce consistent and meaningful data regarding how cases of harassment, discrimination, and violence are handled by the University. The Office will also seek to increase transparency through communications to certain student populations, increased engagement with the campus community, and additional training opportunities for students throughout the year.
- ❖ Many students expressed that the University lacks an accessible forum for feedback and suggestions. The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will strive to increase opportunities for feedback and opinion from members of the University community. The Office will explore in-person opportunities such as focus groups and community forums, as well as electronic means through its webpage and social media.
- ❖ The substantive remarks shared by students indicates that they are often subject to harassment while in publicly accessible spaces on and near campus. The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX will reach out to campus groups with community partnerships to explore concrete steps that the University can take to ensure that our students enjoy a safe and equitable environment while traveling between campus and the surrounding neighborhood.
- ❖ Data suggests that the University needs to invest in elevating the visibility and accessibility of campus resources for gender-based violence. Furthermore, the availability of confidential resources (such as CAPE, or the HCC's Counseling Department) appear to be essential gateways for connecting students to administrative processes and appropriate resources for support. The Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX recommends that the University invest in growing the capacity, capabilities, and visibility of these resources.