Background

In 1972, President Nixon signed Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

The U.S. Department of Justice website states:

“Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. The principal objective of Title IX is to avoid the use of federal money to support sex discrimination in education programs and to provide individual citizens effective protection against those practices. Title IX applies, with a few specific exceptions, to all aspects of federally funded education programs or activities. In addition to traditional educational institutions such as colleges, universities, and elementary and secondary schools, Title IX also applies to any education or training program operated by a recipient of federal financial assistance.”

In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that employment discrimination comes within Title IX prohibition.

Sex/gender-based discrimination covers a broad range of conduct including, but not limited to, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and domestic violence.

Introduction

Huntingdon College administered its first sexual assault campus climate survey in the spring of 2015, to students, 18 years and older, who were enrolled in the traditional day program. Access to the survey extended during a three-week period. Students received weekly e-mail reminders about the survey, and the College welcomed the assistance of faculty, staff, Greek and other student organizations, and such offices as Student Life and Athletics, to assist in encouraging student participation. Personally identifying information was not included in reports of results that were returned to the College.

The survey Huntingdon used was designed by HEDS (the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium), which was designed “… to collect information about students’ perceptions of your campus’s climate for unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault, students’ perceptions of how your institution addresses and responds to sexual assault, and whether and how often students have experienced unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault. We developed this survey to help institutions meet the requirements of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the Clery Act) and the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act to collect and report information about crimes on campus including sexual assault.”

Huntingdon’s interest in administering this type of climate survey was to assist the College in assessing the effectiveness of the College’s new Title IX education program.
and the new sexual misconduct policy and College reporting process. The following report is being made available in order to share with the College community the results of the spring 2015 survey. At the conclusion of the survey, students were given the opportunity to provide written comments, and these comments have proven to be very valuable as the College looks toward improvement of its education program, policy and process.

Concluding Remarks

The College is working to further develop its policy, processes, and awareness and education programming. Results of the spring 2015 climate survey will certainly assist in this effort. Among the measures already taken or underway are:

- A licensed counselor was added to the College staff in the summer of 2015, and serves as an on-campus confidential resource for students and employees.
- A wallet card was created to provide students and employees with the most important emergency contact information.
- A new format for our policy document is under development.
- Our education and training program is continuing to be evaluated and developed. Topics such as bystander intervention education, the role of alcohol in sexual misconduct behavior, and awareness of resources available to students when they are away from campus or during times of College closure, will be among those topics to receive additional attention.
- The Discrimination Response Team and Title IX Coordinator are reaching out to students, faculty and staff to invite involvement in the creation and delivery of our sexual misconduct awareness/education campaign. A number of organizations and departments are already contributing to this end through the use of posters, discussion forums, speaker-based programs, and observances of events such as Take Back the Night and the Clothesline Project. An inventory is being developed of what is currently taking place around the College community and this will assist us as we move forward in our planning.