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**From:** Gina Casalegno and Holly Hippensteel <official@andrew.cmu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Annual Update: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Misconduct

Dear Members of the Carnegie Mellon Community:

As we enter the academic year, we write to reinforce the university's unwavering commitment to an environment in which we all can learn, work and fully participate in the life of the community.

That full participation depends on a foundation of mutual respect and care for one another. We all share responsibility for fostering a community free from harassment, discrimination and the threat of violence. [Our commitment at Carnegie Mellon](#) is clear: sexual harassment and sexual violence are against the law and violate our core values. We will not tolerate sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking or sexual harassment.

We also remain steadfast in our commitment to provide effective and appropriate support to community members who are impacted by any misconduct. The university's [Office of Title IX Initiatives](#) is charged with ensuring gender equity at all of our worldwide locations, including coordinating the university's education for faculty, staff and students about the prevention of, and response to, sexual misconduct. All members of the university community are encouraged to contact the office for assistance regarding Title IX matters at any time. To learn more about how to make a report or seek individualized support and resources, we encourage you to visit the [Office of Title IX Initiatives website](#).

We look forward to expanding resources, education, training and support in the coming year. In particular, as demand for education and response continue to grow, we are launching a national search for a full-time director of the office. Additionally, the Title IX Office, University Health Services and staff in the new Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion are offering new initiatives in bystander intervention. Finally, we will again be administering the Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence (SARV) study on the Pittsburgh campus as part of our ongoing effort to ground our response and prevention approach in the lived experiences of students.

We call upon you to join us in upholding the high standards of this community through our personal behavior, the decisions that we make and by reporting inappropriate conduct when we see it. Thank you for your contribution to positively shaping our university culture.

Sincerely,

Gina Casalegno, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students  
Holly Hippensteel, Interim Director of Title IX Initiatives and Title IX Coordinator