

Announcement Regarding Creation of Office of Title IX Initiatives

Vice President Michael Murphy

June 11, 2015

Dear Carnegie Mellon Community Members:

I am writing to update you about an important staffing transition in ongoing support of Title IX. Title IX obligations reflect our long-standing commitment to a university culture that ensures that all members of our community learn, work and live in an environment free from the threat and effects of sexual harassment and sexual violence. With increasing guidance from the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights under Title IX, coupled with other relevant laws and regulations, we are augmenting our staffing in this domain. I am pleased to introduce you to leadership of the newly created Office of Title IX Initiatives.

Holly Hippensteel has accepted the opportunity to serve as part-time interim Director of Title IX Initiatives and Title IX Coordinator. This appointment builds on Holly's exceptional contributions as a Deputy Title IX Coordinator who is deeply committed to building a supportive climate in which each of our community members can thrive. Holly joined the university community in 1998 and has served the university in a variety of roles, most recently as Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. A hallmark of Holly's tenure has been her capacity to develop effective partnerships with faculty, staff and students in support of the university's mission. Holly will retain her role as Assistant Dean of Student Affairs in a part-time capacity in anticipation of her interim appointment running through the 2015-16 academic year as we establish the priorities and direction of this new office. Holly and the activities of this office will report directly to me as Vice President.

Jamie Edwards (DC'07) has joined the office as Assistant Director of Title IX Initiatives. Jamie returns to her alma mater following her studies at the University of Pennsylvania where she earned her Juris Doctorate with a Certificate in Public Health. Following her education at Penn, Jamie worked as a law clerk in the Superior Court of New Jersey and as an associate for McGuireWoods here in Pittsburgh. While a student at Carnegie Mellon, she served in a variety of leadership roles, most notably as the Gender Issues Intern leading numerous campus education and outreach programs related to sexual violence prevention. Jamie returns to CMU with a genuine commitment to the university and its community members, a strong legal background, and a genuine passion for this important work. Since Jamie's arrival to campus, she has established herself as a rising leader in the field, demonstrating an enviable blend of a sharp analytical mind with strong interpersonal skills and a collaborative spirit. She has already begun developing key partnerships with the staff from Student Affairs, the Office of General Counsel, University Police, Human Resources and student and faculty leaders, which is a testament to the great value she will bring to the university as we further our efforts in this critical domain.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. G. Richard Tucker for his contributions as the university's Title IX Coordinator. Serving with distinction in this role since 2012, Dick has provided steady guidance and oversight to the university's policies, investigations and individual support to members of our community impacted by sexual harassment and sexual violence. On behalf of Dr. Suresh and university leadership, I want to thank Dick for his selfless contributions and leadership in this domain during the final three years of his tenure at CMU. The consummate university citizen, Dick retired from his distinguished career as the Paul Mellon University Professor of Applied Linguistics in Modern Languages last month and we are deeply grateful for his immeasurable contributions.

In closing, I am pleased to announce this new office, which further positions Carnegie Mellon to do the important work we have long been committed to in creating a community in which mutual respect, personal integrity and a culture of caring is universally upheld. Please join me in thanking Dick for his service and welcoming Holly and Jamie to their roles. Effective mid-June, the Office of Title IX Initiatives will be located in West Wing Suite 102. Updated phone numbers will be forthcoming and posted here: http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/SA_SH.htm. Holly and Jamie can be contacted via their respective Andrew IDs: jaedward@ and hbh@.

Sincerely,

Michael Murphy
Vice President for Campus Affairs