



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

National Institute of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20531

January 3, 2017

Dear Colleagues and College or University participants:

I am writing to thank you in advance for participating in the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) funded project **Responding to Sexual Assault on Campus: A National Assessment and Systematic Classification of the Scope and Challenges for Investigation and Adjudication**. This important project furthers the Department's mission by encouraging and supporting research, development, and evaluation to improve criminal justice policy and practice in the United States. Specifically, this project is designed to contribute to the ongoing work of The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, and to improve understanding of current practices in campus investigation and adjudication decision-making involving student-on-student sexual assault.

Most importantly, this project is designed to provide useful information to colleges and universities by providing a systematic overview of how colleges are approaching the investigation and adjudication of incidents. This competitive award was made to Wellesley College, Wellesley Centers for Women. The lead investigators for the project, Linda M. Williams, April Pattavina, Nan Stein, and Alison Cares are well equipped to handle the sensitive and important research and to work closely with advisors from campuses around the country to ultimately provide information that will increase access to justice in cases of sexual assault.

Currently the researchers are conducting interviews with key campus stakeholders with knowledge of their institution's policies and procedures in action. The confidential interviews are designed to identify what colleges see as successful approaches as well as current barriers to effective investigation and adjudication of sexual assault. Results will be used to create tools that can help institutions develop and revise procedures for a workable, fair, and equitable process that fits their campus needs.

Your participation is greatly appreciated and I am confident that the contributions of those at the front lines of this work will further our understanding of this issue and help to bring justice to victims of sexual violence. Dr. Williams and her team will be in contact to finalize the details of your participation. Please feel free to contact the NIJ scientist assigned to the grant, Dr. Bethany Backes at Bethany.Backes@usdoj.gov or (202) 305-4419, if you have questions about NIJ efforts in this area. We are confident that you will find that this work will support efforts you are making to respond to sexual violence

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Spivak".

Howard Spivak
Deputy Director, National Institute of Justice