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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HISTORIC SUMMIT ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE CREATES  
NEW SCIENTIFIC CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY**

**MADISON, WI:** In a historic two-day summit, a group of researchers, administrators, and educators met to draft an open-source scientific survey that can help assess sexual violence on campus.

Twenty-two experts from campuses around the country collaborated to create a scientifically sound survey for campuses that seek to base their prevention and education efforts on reliable data.

The meeting was called the Madison Summit for Campus Climate and Sexual Misconduct and took place on February 11 and 12, 2015. It built upon the October 2014 Georgia State University Campus Climate Forum. It was unique because researchers, student affairs and Title IX administrators, and educators came together for the specific purpose of creating a survey that is available for all.

The survey instrument balances the need for scientific standardization with flexibility for individual institutions. It was designed with the specific intent to be responsive to the White House initiatives on Title IX but to do so in a way that provides useable information that will inform program planning and prevention for campus communities. The researchers and administrators who created the survey will be annotating each module of the instrument, providing references for all the measures used and how the resulting data from the instrument can be used to further institutional improvement.

The survey will be made available for peer review and commenting by March 15, 2015, and will be piloted by several schools nationwide this spring. The pilot schools are in the process of being finalized and will be announced by March 15, 2015. Following this period of rigorous review and testing, the survey will be made available for public use by the Fall 2015 academic year. The survey will be available for all campuses to use free of charge.

The people who participated in this effort include:

Antonia Abbey	Professor of Psychology	Wayne State University
Brett Carter	Dean of Students	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Gretchen Clum	Associate Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine	Tulane University
Sarah Cook	Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean, Honors College	Georgia State University
Amalia Corby-Edwards	Senior Legislative and	American Psychological Association

	Federal Affairs Officer	
Lilia Cortina	Associate Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies	University of Michigan
Karol Dean	Dean, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences	Mercy College
Louise Douce	Special Assistant to Vice President of Student Life at The Ohio State University	The Ohio State University
Louise Fitzgerald	Emerita Professor of Psychology and Gender & Women's Studies	University of Illinois-Urbana Champagne
Bill Flack	Associate Professor of Psychology	Bucknell University
Jennifer Freyd	Professor of Psychology	University of Oregon
Jaray Gillespie	Assistant Dean of Students	Georgia State University
Anne Hedgepeth	Government Relations Manager	American Association of University Women
Kathryn Holland	Doctoral Candidate in Psychology and Women's Studies	University of Michigan
Janet Hyde	Professor of Psychology and Gender & Women's Studies	University of Wisconsin
Mary Koss	Regents' Professor of Public Health	University of Arizona
Felicia McGinty	Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Meredith Smith	Lead Title IX Investigator & Deputy Title IX Coordinator	University of Connecticut
Kate Stover	Educational Programmer	Title IX Compliance Institute
Kevin Swartout	Assistant Professor of Psychology	Georgia State University

Jacquelyn White

Emerita Professor of  
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University of North Carolina at Greensboro

The survey will be prefaced with the guiding principles that informed the work of the Summit members creating the instrument. The preface to these principles state:

*Student-focused campus climate surveys related to sexual misconduct should serve multiple purposes. They should go beyond assessing the incidence and prevalence of sexual misconduct, but also serve across time as a barometer of the success of policies, procedures, services, and prevention programs. Participation in a campus climate survey can serve as an educational opportunity and as an intervention; therefore, the survey should be framed to educate students regarding the full range of experiences that constitute sexual misconduct and sexual assault and should be structured so that students know that their own unwanted experiences matter.*

*Additionally, meaningful prevention rests on identifying the reasons sexual misconduct is perpetrated and the environments that foster it. Our goal is create a “living document,” along with recommended best practices—something that will be useful to improve the safety and well-being of all students, but is amendable to modifications based on data and lessons learned.*

**For more information, contact Dr. Jennifer Freyd at [jjf@uoregon.edu](mailto:jjf@uoregon.edu), Dr. Sarah Cook at [scook@gsu.edu](mailto:scook@gsu.edu), or Dr. Felicia E. McGinty at [felicia.mcginty@rutgers.edu](mailto:felicia.mcginty@rutgers.edu).**