



NADOHE Expresses Concern on the U.S. Department of Education Regulatory Changes to Title IX

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2020 – Fort Lauderdale, FL. – On May 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education announced regulatory changes to Title IX, which governs the handling of sexual misconduct in higher education. NADOHE and its members share a strong commitment to gender equity, inclusion, and fairness for all students, faculty and staff. Colleges and universities must continue to offer resources that prevent and remedy sexual harassment, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking, as well as other forms of sex- and gender-based discrimination.

The new regulations, which exceed 2,000 pages, will require close review and analysis and will undoubtedly lead to substantial changes to policy and procedure. Colleges and universities must make these changes in a manner that prioritizes institutional values and the wellbeing of the campus community while also addressing due process considerations. NADOHE is concerned by aspects of the new regulations that may pose barriers to reporting sexual misconduct. Going forward, NADOHE will assist our members in identifying strategies that minimize those barriers while assuring compliance with the law.

It is unfortunate that colleges and universities are mandated to put such complex, new policies in place on a tight timeframe, while simultaneously managing the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on students, employees and local communities. We urge colleges and universities to take a holistic approach to ensure the safety of all students and to continue current Title IX institutional practices and procedures until the impact of these new federal guidelines can be determined. As higher education leaders focused on equity, NADOHE members will play an essential role in responding to these challenges.

As the pre-eminent voice for chief diversity officers in higher education and with nearly 1,000 members, NADOHE's mission is to lead higher education towards inclusive excellence through institutional transformation. For more information about NADOHE, visit www.nadohe.org.

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