

The National Academies of
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October 14, 2019

Marcia Martinez-Helfman
President
International Ombudsman Association
113 Duhring Wing
236 S. 34th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear President Martinez-Helfman,

We are delighted that the International Ombudsman Association has joined the National Academies' Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education. As the members of the Leadership Group guiding the Action Collaborative, we recognize the importance of your commitment of campus leaders and financial resources to the urgent need to improve the way our organizations address sexual harassment and abuse. We believe that reducing and preventing sexual harassment and abuse in our communities is a challenge that requires us to collaborate and work together across institutions, and we are grateful for your 4-year commitment to this member-driven and member-funded effort.

The Action Collaborative held a great first meeting earlier this year, on June 9-10, 2019, at which representatives from the member institutions shared novel and innovative approaches and promising practices for preventing sexual harassment and abuse. The meeting also served to connect institutions working on similar topics and provide examples of the ways that institutions might organize and approach this work on campus and at research institutions. One of the important results from the meeting was the formation of four working groups and the development of plans for how the groups will approach their work on the topics of prevention, response, remediation, and evaluation.

Plans were also discussed for the first annual public summit that the Action Collaborative will host every fall in a different part of the country. The Summit is an opportunity to gather information, engage in a dialogue, gain diverse perspectives on how to effectively prevent sexual harassment and abuse, and ultimately identify and elevate promising practices for preventing sexual harassment and abuse. This year's Summit will be held on November 19th and 20th at the University of Washington in Seattle. We have shared the information about the event with your Action Collaborative representatives, and we hope that you will encourage and support them in making time and participating in this event and the ongoing work of the Action Collaborative.

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We encourage you to share information about the Action Collaborative and your participation in it with your board of directors or trustees, and other leadership at your institution. We also welcome and encourage you to reach out to us and engage in a discussion about this work. We expect that during the four-years of the Action Collaborative, there will be times when it will be crucial to discuss this work with you, and we look forward to doing so.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Group for the Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vineet Arora".

Vineet Arora,
Associate Chief Medical Officer
University of Chicago Medicine

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Barnhart".

Cynthia Barnhart
Chancellor
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ana Mari Cauce".

Ana Mari Cauce
President
University of Washington

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth L. Hillman".

Elizabeth L. Hillman
President
Mills College

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francisco Rodriguez".

Francisco Rodriguez
Chancellor
Los Angeles Community College District