

Lewis Center for Educational Research

BP 4319.11 PERSONNEL UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, AND RETALIATION

Adopted: June 5, 2003

**Revised: June 11, 2012, October 16, 2017
February 10, 2020**

The Lewis Center for Educational Research (“LCER”) is committed to providing a work and educational environment that is free of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. The LCER’s policy prohibits unlawful harassment, discrimination and retaliation based upon: race; color; gender (including gender identity and expression); sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions); religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices); marital/registered domestic partner status; age (forty (40) and over); national origin or ancestry (including native language spoken); physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS); medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics); taking a leave of absence authorized by law; genetic information; sexual orientation; military and veteran status; immigration status, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws.

Employees, volunteers, job applicants, unpaid interns, individuals in apprenticeship programs, and independent contractors shall not be harassed, or discriminated or retaliated against, based upon the characteristics noted above.

The LCER does not condone and will not tolerate unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation on the part of any employee (including supervisors and managers) or third party (including independent contractor or other person with which the school does business). Supervisors and managers are to report any complaints of unlawful harassment to the President/CEO (“CEO”) or designee.

When the LCER receives allegations of unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation, the President/CEO or designee (or Board if a complaint is about the President/CEO), will ensure a fair, timely and thorough investigation in accordance with LCER Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 1312.1 Community Relations Complaints Concerning Lewis Center Personnel. The investigation will be handled in as confidential a manner as possible, although complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Complainants and witnesses shall not be subject to retaliation for making complaints in good faith or participating in an investigation. The LCER is committed to remediating any instances where investigation findings demonstrate unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation has occurred.

Prohibited Unlawful Harassment:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs;
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement, or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis;
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment; or
- Disparate treatment based on any of the protected classes above.

Prohibited Unlawful Sexual Harassment:

The LCER is committed to providing a workplace free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, of the offending employee.

Sexual harassment consists of sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of whether or not the conduct is motivated by sexual desire, when: (1) submission to the conduct is either made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) an employment decision is based upon an individual's acceptance or rejection of that conduct; and/or (3) that conduct interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an employee who has articulated in good faith concern about sexual harassment against him or her or against another individual.

All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment, discrimination and retaliation training within six (6) months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two (2) years thereafter. Such training will address all federal and state laws on the prohibition against and the prevention and correction of sexual harassment and the remedies available to the victims. The training will also include how to recognize harassment, how to respond appropriately, the LCER's policies and regulations regarding harassment, and information about the negative effects that abusive conduct has on both the victim of the conduct and others in the workplace.

Abusive conduct includes but is not limited to repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the gratuitous sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance. Other staff will receive harassment and discrimination training and/or instruction concerning harassment and discrimination in the workplace as required by law, and complaint procedures. In addition, the CEO or designee shall ensure all employees received copies of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing publication and information sheets and ensure information is posted in prominent locations around the schools.

Each employee has the responsibility to maintain a workplace free from any form of sexual harassment. Consequently, should any individual, in particular those with supervisory responsibilities, become aware of any conduct that may constitute sexual harassment or other prohibited behavior, immediate action should be taken to address such conduct. Any employee who believes they have been sexually harassed or has witnessed sexual harassment is encouraged to immediately report such harassment to the CEO or designee. See **Appendix A** for the "Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliation Complaint Form."

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:
- Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults and
- Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body.

Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:

- Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience.
- Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an employee for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any employee to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or disparate treatment for rejecting sexual conduct.

- Subjecting or threats of subjecting an employee to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making performance of the employee's job more difficult because of the employee's sex.

Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere at the workplace by employees, such as:

- Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing to work or possessing any such material to read, display or view at work;
- Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the work environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic; and
- Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an employee by sex in an area of the workplace (other than restrooms or similar rooms).

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this policy. Moreover, please note that while in most situations a personal relationship is a private matter, these relationships are not appropriate in a professional setting, particularly where one of the parties has management or supervisory responsibilities. As such, consensual relationships in the workplace may violate LCER policy.

APPENDIX A

HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION/RETALIATION COMPLAINT FORM

It is the policy of the Lewis Center for Educational Research ("LCER") that all of its employees be free from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. This form is provided for you to report what you believe to be harassment, discrimination, or retaliation so that the LCER may investigate and take appropriate disciplinary or other action when the facts show that there has been harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.

If you are an employee, job applicant, volunteer or vendor of the LCER, you may file this form with the President/CEO or designee (or Board President if the complaint is against the CEO).

Please review the School's policies concerning harassment, discrimination, and retaliation for a definition of such unlawful conduct and a description of the types of conduct that are considered unlawful.

The LCER will undertake every effort to handle the investigation of your complaint in a confidential manner. In that regard, the LCER will disclose the contents of your complaint only to those persons having a need to know. For example, to conduct its investigation, the LCER will need to disclose portions of your factual allegations to potential witnesses, including anyone you have identified as having knowledge of the facts on which you are basing your complaint, as well as the alleged offender.

In signing this form below, you authorize the LCER to disclose to others the information you have provided herein, and information you may provide in the future. Please note that the more detailed information you provide, the more likely it is that the LCER will be able to address your complaint to your satisfaction.

Charges of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation are taken very seriously by the LCER both because of the harm caused by such unlawful conduct, and because of the potential sanctions that may be taken against the offender. It is therefore very important that you report the facts as accurately and completely as possible and that you cooperate fully with the person or persons designated to investigate your complaint.

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s): _____

Name of Person(s) you believe harassed, or discriminated or retaliated against, you or someone else:

List any witnesses that were present: _____

Where did the incident(s) occur? _____

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand the above statements. I hereby authorize the LCER to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation.

I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Complainant

Date

Print Name

Received by: _____

Date: _____

