

Nevada System of Higher Education Task Force on Power-Based Violence at Institutions of Higher Education: An Overview

Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, Chair

June 20, 2024



Background

Nevada Legislation and the Task Force



Image credit: Microsoft

- Nevada Revised Statute 396 (NRS 396) and Senate Bill 347 (SB 347), passed during the 81st (2021) Legislative Session and effective June 9, 2021, mandated the convening of a Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Task Force on Sexual Misconduct.
- Per the Task Force's recommendation, NSHE contracted The Center for Surveys, Evaluation, and Statistics (CSES) and the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies (GSCJS) at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to administer a survey to assess sexual misconduct at 7 of the 8 institutions that enroll students.
- Effective July 1, 2023, the Task Force was subsequently renamed the Power-Based Violence Task Force (PBVTF) per Assembly Bill 245 (AB 245) and NRS 396.1415 passed in the 82nd (2023) Legislative Session. The aforementioned survey was revised to align with the new legislation.

Task Force Membership

AB245 Membership Designation	Appointee
Chancellor or designee	Ms. Patricia Charlton, Interim Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education
Chief General Counsel or designee	Mr. James Martines, Chief General Counsel, Nevada System of Higher Education
One representative of a state college	Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, Dean, School of Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Business, Nevada State University
	Task Force Chair
One representative of a community college	Ms. Erin Frock, Counselor, Truckee Meadows Community College
One representative of a university	Mr. José Meléndrez, Interim Vice President for Diversity Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
One Title IX coordinator from an institution within the System	Michelle Sposito, Director, Equal Employment and Title IX, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Task Force Membership (Continued)

AB245 Membership Designation	Appointee
One student, appointed in consultation with the Nevada Student Alliance or its successor organization, who represents a group or organization that focuses on multiculturalism, diversity or advocacy at a state college or community college	Lisha Allison, Undergraduate Student Truckee Meadows Community College
One student, appointed in consultation with the Nevada Student Alliance or its successor organization, who represents a group or organization that focuses on multiculturalism, diversity or advocacy at a university	Kevin Leon-Martinez, Undergraduate Student, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
One researcher with experience in the development of climate surveys on power-based violence	Dr. Tabor Griswold, Program Director, Health Workforce Research, University of Nevada, Reno Task Force Vice Chair
One researcher of statistics, data analytics or econometrics with experience in survey analysis in higher education	Dr. Kavita Batra, Assistant Professor, Medical Research Biostatistician, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Task Force Membership (Cont'd)

AB245 Membership Designation	Appointee
One medical professional from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Medicine or the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine	Dr. Alison Netski, Vice Dean of Clinical Affairs and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Two members who serve as a victim's advocate, as defined in NRS 49.2545, at an institution within the System	<p>Mr. Shaun Mabanta, Campus Victim Advocate, Crisis Support Center Truckee Meadows Community College</p> <p>Christina Hall, Interim Director, The Care Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas</p>
One student who identifies as a victim of power-based violence	Ms. Lindsey Wolterbeek, Undergraduate Student, University of Nevada, Reno
One person who represents an organization governing fraternities and sororities at an institution within the System	Mr. Jordan Fischette, Assistant Director, Fraternity and Sorority Life, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Definitions



Image credit: Microsoft

- **Power-based violence** refers to any form of interpersonal violence intended to pressure, control, intimidate, or harm another person through the assertion of power over the person. This term includes, without limitation, dating violence, domestic violence, family violence, gender-based violence, violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, stalking, and observing another person who is naked or engaging in sexual activity without that person's consent.
- **Sexual misconduct** is a subset of power-based violence and is broadly defined as the use of power or control to intimidate or harass another person through unwanted intimate violence. Examples of sexual misconduct include intimate partner violence and stalking. Sexual misconduct occurs in the absence of consent. There are questions in the survey that address sexual misconduct in greater detail.
- **Sexual assault** is a subset of power-based violence and is defined as any sexual activity that happens without consent. There are questions in the survey that address sexual assault in greater detail.

AB 245/NRS 396.1415

- “Sec. 7.1. NRS 396.1425...to the extent that money is available, the Board of Regents may require each institution within the System to conduct a climate survey on power-based violence at the institution biennially.”
- “2. A climate survey on power-based violence conducted pursuant to subsection 1 must include the questions developed by researchers employed at an institution within the System pursuant to NRS 396.142.”



Image credit: Microsoft

Major Milestones I

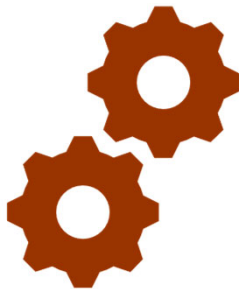


Image credit: Microsoft

- **February 17, 2022**
 - Inaugural Task Force meeting
 - Task Force officers elected
 - Inventory of current instruments and data from NSHE institutions presented by institutional representatives
- **April 25, 2022**
 - Experts presented best practices for administering sexual misconduct surveys at institutions of higher education to the Task Force
- **October 12, 2022**
 - An expert from The Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation, and Statistics presented metrics and process for managing an NSHE wide survey to the Task Force
 - An expert presented on the complexities of sexual assault and survivor interactions to the Task Force

Major Milestones II



Image credit: Microsoft

- **March 29, 2023**
 - The Task Force reviewed a draft of the survey instrument and recommended amendments
 - The Task Force voted unanimously to recommend the survey instrument to the Board of Regents
- **June 9, 2023**
 - Board of Regents unanimously approved the survey instrument including revisions aligned with SB 245/NRS 396.1415
 - The Acting Chancellor identified \$30,000 in Special Project funding for The Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation, and Statistics to administer the survey and to analyze results

Power-Based Violence Survey: Survey Sections

- Campus Policies and Procedures
- Bystander Readiness
- Reporting Observations
- Alcohol and Sexual Opportunities
- Power-Based Violence by a Perpetrator
- Relationships
- Interpersonal Violence
- Abuse Norms
- The Perpetrator
- Unwanted Sexual Experiences
- Unwanted Sexual Contact

Major Milestones III



Image credit: Microsoft

- **Fall 2023**
 - The survey was administered to students at College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Nevada State University, Truckee Meadows Community College, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University of Nevada, Reno, and Western Nevada College
 - No high school dual enrollment students were included, and only those students 18 years of age or older were permitted to participate in the survey
- **December 27, 2023**
 - First meeting of the new iteration of the Power Based Violence Task Force under SB 245/NRS 396.1415
 - Task Force elected officers

Power-Based Violence Survey: Survey Participants

The final contact list, compiled from contacts provided from each NSHE institution, yielded 107,386 students. Of those students, 3,298 emails were duplicated, 1,160 emails bounced, and 4 emails failed to send. Therefore, a total of 102,924 students received the survey. Out of the students who received the survey, 5,644 students completed the survey. However, 147 students did not consent to completing the survey; therefore, their surveys were terminated immediately. Thus, 5,497 surveys had viable data. The response rate of this survey is 5.48%.

Institution	Number of Respondents
College of Southern Nevada	954
Great Basin College	100
Nevada State University	101
Truckee Meadows Community College	226
University of Nevada, Las Vegas	3,217
University of Nevada, Reno	990
Western Nevada College	56
Total	5,644

Power-Based Violence Survey: Brief Overview of Findings

- Generally, students at each institution reported positive perceptions of their campus leadership
- Overall, reports of unwanted sexual experience perpetration and victimization were low
- Generally, students from UNR reported the most experiences with being victims of, or witnessing, unwanted sexual contact or sexual assault
- UNR students also reported the most interest in preventing power-based violence through involvement in programs
- Complete results are available on the NSHE Power-Based Violence Task Force website



Image credit: Microsoft

Major Milestones IV



Image credit: Microsoft

- **March 26, 2024**
 - Presentation of survey results to the Task Force
 - Inventory of current processes and programs by institution presented to the Task Force
- **June 9, 2024**
 - Presentation of survey results to the Board of Regents
- **Looking Ahead**
 - Align inventory of current processes and programs with best practices and survey results
 - Continue to follow action items AB 245/NRS 396.1415 including policy exploration and inter-institutional coordination

Conclusion



Image credit: Microsoft

Thank you to the members of the Power-Based Violence Task Force for their ongoing commitment to this initiative.

Thank you to the Board of Regents and to Interim Chancellor Patricia Charlton and her team for their time and invaluable guidance.

Thank you to the research team at UNR's Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation, and Statistics for their collaboration.

Finally, thank you to the NSHE students who completed the survey.